



# •the• ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

## FOUR YEARS AND COUNTING AT THE ADA FARMERS' MARKET – WHAT'S NEW FOR 2012

Opening June 19 and staying open until September 25, the Ada Farmers' Market just gets better each year. The Market this year, will have over 25 returning seasonal vendors, and more than 10 new vendors, and we are "at capacity." These new vendors bring to us a wide variety of new locally grown or made food offerings – artisan sausage, homemade jerky, pies and tarts, herbs and perennials, sweet corn, savory pies, gluten free bread and pretzels, hickory smoked dog bones, meat rubs/seasonings and sauces and artisan pastries. Taking place again in the parking lot of The Community church, the Market will open every Tuesday at noon and stay open until 6 pm. Once again, the Ada Village Kids Garden will be a vendor in the Market. New this year:

- An expanded and enhanced kids activities program at "Kids in the Market" featuring special events like yoga for moms and kids, balloon art, origami and "Art on the Asphalt" along with some of the expected – face painting, bee hive observation and a scavenger hunt.
- Entertainment in the Market under the banner "Music in the Market" featuring soloists, duos and groups at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and

3 p.m. – who knows, it could be folk, bluegrass, jazz or whatever. Please be generous – all of our musicians are playing for tips.

- Participation in the Double Up Food Bucks program.

Returning will be:

- The sale of our fabulous Market baskets as a fundraiser to assure the continued operation of the Market.
- The acceptance of Visa, Mastercard and Discover debit and credit cards and EBT/Bridge cards. We are proud to have received a grant to participate in the Double Up Food Bucks program which will allow the holder of a Bridge card to double their purchasing power of Michigan grown fruits and vegetables up to \$20 per market day.

Our goal is to make Market days a real "experience" – "Kids in the Market," "Music in the Market" along with everything else that's great about the Ada Farmers' Market. Get ready to once again "eat fresh, eat healthy, eat local, beginning on June 19!!"

## 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The 4th of July is only a few weeks away! This year again promises to be a fantastic celebration! We'll start out with the Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Station, then the Kids' Bike Parade, followed by the "MAIN" Parade. We are putting together a really great Parade lineup this year! If you would like to be in the Parade, whether you're a resident or a business operating in Ada, be at the parking lot by McDonald's at around 9 a.m. for the line-up. Businesses are limited to one entry this year.

We'll have all the Rides, Food, Music, and Arts & Crafts Tents, along with Finger-Printing for the kids, at the "Village Green." The Classic Car Show will be here again, in the Community Church parking lot, where the winner of "Best in Parade" will be announced. Finally, the FIREWORKS!!! They will be launched by the river at dusk again this year, so come to the village or anywhere nearby to view the best fireworks in West Michigan, co-sponsored by Cascade Township.

***Bike Decorating Day at Ada Township Park, Tuesday, July 3, 10-12 p.m., \$3 per Youth.***

- 7-9:30 a.m. Firemen's Pancake Breakfast at Fire House #1
- 9:00 a.m. Parade line up at McDonald's parking lot
- 10:00 a.m. Kids' Bike Parade begins, with MAIN Parade following
- 11-3:00 p.m. "VILLAGE GREEN" activities: Free Games & Prizes, Music, Arts & Craft Show, Food, Free Rides
- 11-3:00 p.m. Classic Car Show
- 12:15 p.m. Winning Parade Entry Announced
- DUSK (10 p.m.) Fire Works in the Village

## THE BACKYARD BONFIRE

It's the time of year were many residents want to have a small Bonfire in the backyard. The Township Open Burning Ordinance refers to this type of fire as a Recreational Fire and they are allowed without a burning permit, but there are a few rules:

- The pile of sticks and other material used as fuel must be 3 feet or less in diameter, and not more than 2 feet in height.
- The fire must be at least 25 feet from any structure.
- Dead grass, leaves, or other debris that can burn must be cleared from around the fire.
- The fire must be constantly attended.
- A means of extinguishment such as a hose, dirt and a shovel, or a fire extinguisher must be present.

If you are using a Portable Outdoor Fireplace, it cannot be on a deck, and must be 15 feet from a structure. With any type of outdoor burning, if the smoke is offensive or objectionable to your neighbors, the fire must be put out. The Township Open Burning Ordinance is available on the Township web site, [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com), or contact the Fire Department with any questions, 676-2376.

## BURN PERMITS

Burn Permits are required for any Open Burning within the entire Township, except Recreational Fires, and can be obtained by stopping at the Township Office or via phone at 676-9191, ext. 29.

**FIREFIGHTER OF THE ISSUE  
FIREFIGHTER JEFF JACOBS**



I have been an Ada firefighter since 2001. I first joined the Fire department to be active in the community that I just moved to with my wife Peggy. She was on the department prior to me joining from 2000 to 2005.

Helping out those in need seemed like the right thing to do, but after being on for several years you experience things that you thought you never would see. Besides the other firefighters, lieutenants and chiefs coming together to provide their experiences, training and support, it's the community giving back more to us by their support and gratitude. Being a firefighter has taught me several life experiences, but most of all the value of life. Be safe, # 47.

**AUGUST PRIMARY COMING UP!**

On Tuesday, August 7th, Ada Township will conduct the 2012 Primary Elections. There will be many items on the ballot for Ada residents to consider. We have two millage proposals that will be up for renewal: the Police and Fire Millage, and the Parks and Recreation Millage. Also, the Ada Township Elected Officials will all be up for election. They include the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four Trustees. Other offices up for election are: U.S. Senator, our 86th State Representative, Kent County Prosecuting Attorney, Kent County Clerk/Register, Kent County Treasurer, and 11th District County Commission seat. There will also be judges for Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, District Court and Probate Court on the August Primary ballot.

**It's important to remember that the deadline for registering to vote in the August Primary is July 9, 2012.**

**FIELD REVIEWS**

Ada Township Assessor's office will be working on neighborhood reviews during the year. This will involve an inspection of the property to verify the information contained on your property record card is accurate. We will be in a marked township vehicle.



**12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER  
CONCERT SERIES  
TUESDAYS 7:00 PM**

Hosted by the Ada Historical Society  
7144 Headley Street, Ada  
Sponsored by Ada Township



JUNE 12	ADAMS FAMILY	50S AND 60S
JUNE 19	KINFYRE	CELTIC
JUNE 26	VOICES OF FREEDOM	PATRIOTIC ACAPELLA
-----		
JULY 10	BLUEWATER RAMBLERS	FOLK
JULY 17	3X COOL	JAZZ AND STANDARDS
JULY 24	13 <sup>TH</sup> HOUR	CLASSIC ROCK
-----		
AUGUST 3	NOWHERE BAND	BEATLES MUSIC
	*SPECIAL FRIDAY, 6:30PM*	
AUGUST 7	JAVA JIVE	SWING
AUGUST 14	TOM HAGEN TRIO	JAZZ AND STANDARDS
AUGUST 21	HAWKS & OWLS	STRING BAND
AUGUST 28	TONY REYNOLDS	AMERICAN HITS

# Ada Historical Society & Museum

## Events June, July and August 2012



**Event:** Music on the Lawn — See Article.

**June 9, July 14, August 11**

**Event:** Membership Meeting — Come join us in our efforts to explore and preserve Ada history.

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** at the Museum

**July 4, 2012**

**Event:** Fourth of July Parade & Festivities — Celebrate American heritage with a stop at the Museum. Shop our gift shop for all things Ada. Grab a water (or coffee) and watch the parade from our shady lawn.

**Time:** All day festivities, parade at 10:00 a.m., museum open until 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** The parade route passes right in front of the Museum!



**July 20, 2012**

**Event:** Garden Event — Join us to stroll through our gardens, enjoy local art creations and tasty treats. Our Master Gardener will be on hand to discuss any botanical questions. Pick up gifts & ideas from local vendors. Enjoy our program on how to incorporate garden products into your everyday life.

**Time:** 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** at the Museum gardens

**August 3, 2012**

**Event:** August In Ada — The village green will be filled with fun activities for kids of all ages! The Historical Society will be there to take part in the food, games, crafts and fun.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Village Green on Headley St.

**August 11, 2012**

**Event:** Thornapple River Expedition 2012 —

This event is a 6-day public journey of discovery to experience Michigan's Thornapple River and its watershed in order to foster awareness and responsibility for the River. The Society, in conjunction with the Ada Parks Department, will welcome participants as they complete the journey with closing ceremonies in Ada!



**August 14-15, 2012**

**Event:** Pioneer Days —

Come step back in time as we explore life for kids in the 1800's. We partner with the Ada Parks Department and have fun with pioneer-era toys, tools, food,

games, and more. Contact the Park office at 616-676-0520 or [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com) for registration forms.

- Plan to visit our temporary exhibit featuring the history of the M-21 bridge over the Grand River. Since 1857 we've been crossing a bridge over the Grand River. Follow the story as it winds over four different bridges and one hundred fifty five years.



**Hours of Operation:** The Averill Historical Museum of Ada is open Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and also by appointment.

### Contact Information

7144 Headley St., Ada

Phone: 616.676.9346

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

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

## ROAD PROJECTS PLANNED FOR SUMMER MONTHS

The summer of 2012 will see a number of road repair and improvement projects in Ada Township, in addition to the ongoing work on the new M-21 bridge over the Grand River. Following is a list of planned projects and their targeted dates, as well as an update on M-21 bridge work:

- **Milling and resurfacing of Fulton St. (M-21), from Grand River Dr. east to the Grand River.**  
This Michigan Department of Transportation project will likely be completed during night-time hours, and is tentatively planned to occur over a 3-4 week timeframe in August.
- **Repaving of Pettis Ave., from Forest Hills Eastern High School south to Egypt Valley Ave.**  
The existing asphalt pavement will be crushed, re-shaped, and paved with new asphalt. Work will begin in mid-June and be completed in August. Through traffic will be detoured during the project. This project is funded entirely by the Kent County Road Commission, with Federal grant assistance.
- **Milling and resurfacing of Longpoint Ct. and Rippling Drive; chip sealing and micro-surfacing of Conservancy Dr.**  
Schedule information for the above projects is not yet available. These local road projects are cost-shared by the Township and the Road Commission.
- **Hall St. re-paving and sidewalk project, from Cascade Rd. to Forest Hills Central High School.**  
Work on this project will begin in June after school is recessed for the summer, and will be completed before school re-opens in the fall. A left-turn lane will be installed at the Paradise Lake Dr. intersection, and the balance of the road surface will be crushed, reshaped and repaved with asphalt at its current width. 5-foot wide sidewalks will be installed on both sides of the road. Project costs are being shared by Ada Township, Cascade Township and the Kent County Road Commission.
- **Thornapple River Dr./Ada Dr. Intersection Repaving and Crosswalks**  
As a follow-up to last year's road construction in the Village, the Thornapple River Dr./Ada Dr. intersection will be milled and re-surfaced. In addition, brick-patterned crosswalks will be stamped and painted at the Bronson St. and Thornapple River Dr. intersections on Ada Dr. The schedule for this work is yet to be determined.
- **Knapp Street bridge over the Grand River**  
Minor repairs will be performed on the bridge structure, and the concrete bridge deck will have a sealer applied. Scheduled for completion in August.
- **M-21 Bridge Replacement Update**  
As those who use the bridge are aware, the Contractor resumed work in mid-March, and significant progress has been made since. Pouring of the concrete deck should be completed by late-May to early-June. Once the bridge deck is complete, concrete median barriers will be poured. When the median barrier and approach work is complete, the bridge will be opened to traffic – likely by the end of June.

At least one eastbound M-21 lane will probably remain closed after the bridge is open, to facilitate removal of the temporary bridge. MDOT is considering opening both lanes of westbound traffic right away, which would alleviate morning traffic congestion on Pettis Ave. and Vergennes St. The Contractor will have some presence throughout the entire construction season as the temporary bridge is removed and the construction area is restored.

*Please visit the Ada Township Website at [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com) for more information and updates.*

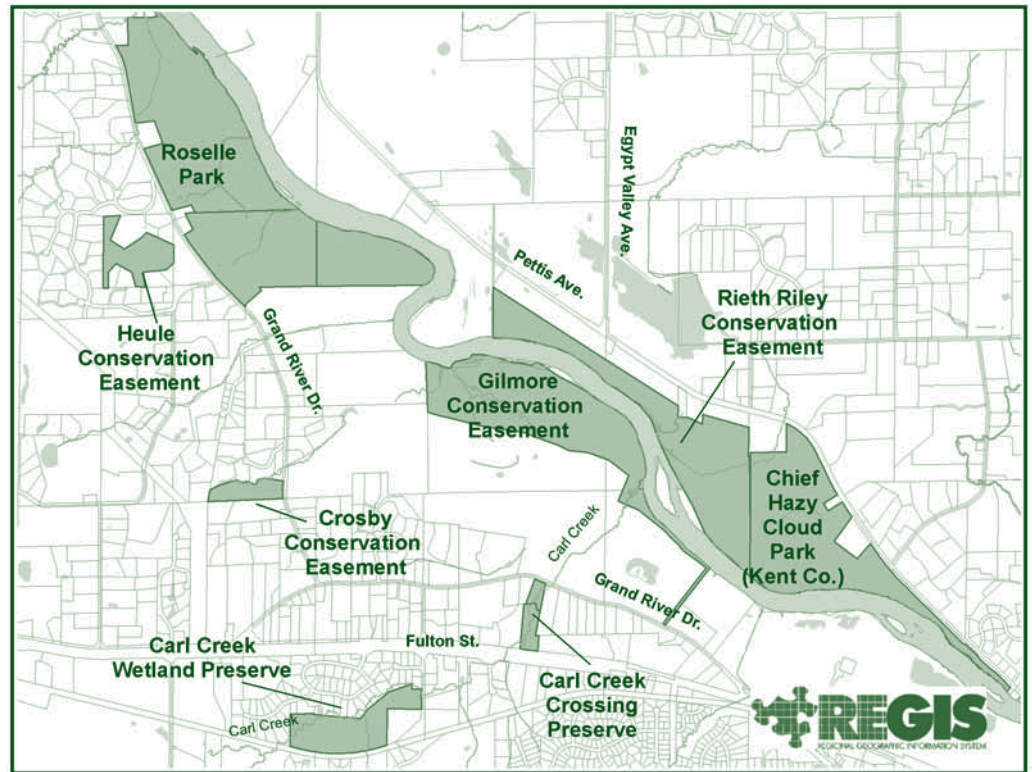
*If you would prefer receiving the AdaView via email, please email the Clerk's office at: [sburton@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:sburton@adatownshipmi.com)*

## RIVERFRONT PROTECTION CONTINUES ALONG THE GRAND RIVER

*(Reprinted with permission, Land Conservancy of West Michigan, Spring 2012 Newsletter)*

Land protection in Ada Township continues to be a priority for its residents, local officials and the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. This past year the Land Conservancy was able to work with Ada Township residents Gene and Tubie Gilmore, who believe in this priority; they protected 110 acres of their Grand River frontage property with a conservation easement.

Nearly a mile and a half of the Grand River runs along Gene and Tubie's property, all of which is now protected. "We have always looked at ourselves as caretakers of the land," mentioned Gene. "We are taking care of it until we pass it on to the next generation. We were happy to protect it with the conservation easement to ensure that the property will be mostly the same into the future."



The floodplain forest habitat on the property allows the river to continue its natural flow and flood processes. During high water or flooding, the river simply comes up over its banks and is allowed to slowly seep back into the land. Water quality is maintained through this process as the slowly-receding river is filtered through the natural, undeveloped land of the property.

These natural river processes are also supported by other nearby protected lands along the river. Ada Township's Roselle Park (240 acres) is downstream and Kent County Parks' Chief Hazy Cloud Park (120 acres) is across the river and upstream from the Gilmore property.

Ada Township is a productive area for conservation easements, as the Land Conservancy now has six in the township. In addition, Ada Township recently acquired parcels along Carl Creek upstream of the Gilmore property between Grand River Drive and Fulton Street (the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve), and west of Alta Dale Ave. (the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve). Ada Township also holds a conservation easement on land along the north bank of the Grand River along Pettis Ave., owned by Rieth Riley Construction Co., that was granted to the Township in 2007 as part of a litigation settlement.

All of these protected lands have a visible impact on the wildlife habitat in the township. "Gene pointed out a nest as we stepped out of the back slider of the house," says Pete DeBoer, Land Protection Coordinator. "It was spectacular to see two bald eagles circling above the nest over the Grand River valley below."

Bald eagles are currently listed as a species of special concern in Michigan. However, the pair seen on Gene and Tubie's property has successfully raised young in the past.

**(Note: Ada Township's Open Space Advisory Board is in the process of developing plans for public access improvements to the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve and the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve. Privately-owned lands with conservation easements held by the Land Conservancy or the Township, such as the Gilmore property and Rieth Riley property, are not open to public access).**

# GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON




## ARE YOU READY?

**JUNE 10TH 2012**  
WWW.GRANDRAPIDSTRIATHLON.COM

Dear Resident:

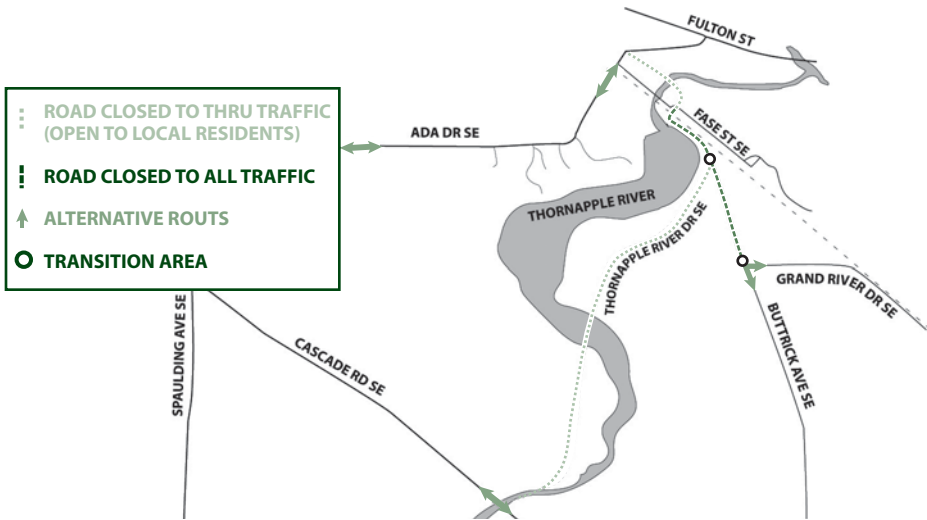
We are holding the 2nd annual Grand Rapids Triathlon on June 10. Roads in your area will be closed for this event. Both Thornapple River Drive and Buttrick Avenue will be closed. Thornapple River Drive will be closed Sunday from 4 am to 6 pm (see map). Buttrick Avenue will be closed from June 9th at 6 pm till June 10th at 6 pm. However, residents that live on the closed roads will have access on the roads. You may have to go around some barricades and be prepared to show your ID. In case you are planning a graduation party, birthday, etc., please let me know ASAP and I will work with you and the Sheriff Department on access for your guests. Churches will be open but you may need to take a detour. There will be delays and traffic will be re-routed.

Both Fire Trucks and Ambulances have been notified and have access thru the road closures.

Feel free to contact me if you have further questions: 616.805.3059 or [andy@grandrapidsstriathlon.com](mailto:andy@grandrapidsstriathlon.com)

Thank you for your continued support,

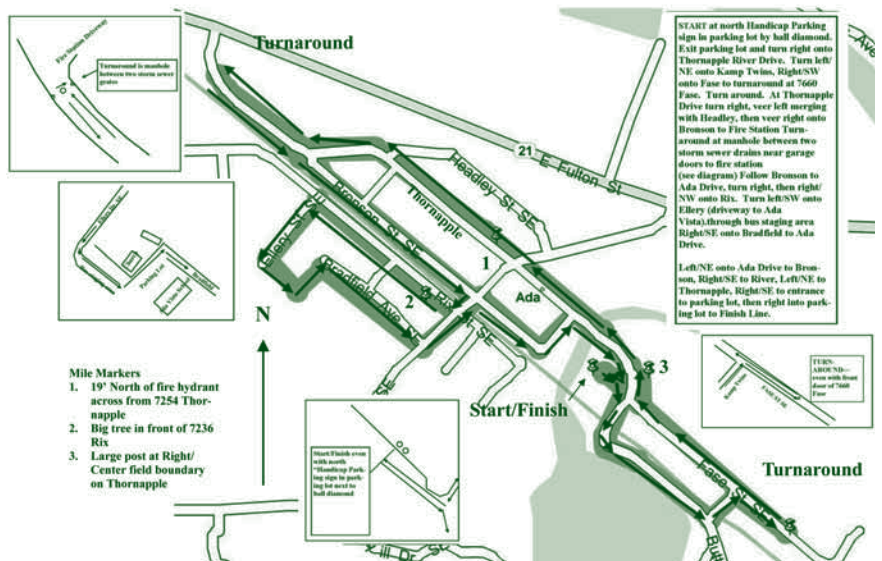
Andy Vidro, Co-Director



*3rd Annual Run 4 a Cause...Our Kids! is gearing up to help raise funds and awareness for the life-saving and life-changing services at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.*

Saturday, June 16, 2012  
5K Run/Walk – 8:30 a.m.  
1 Mile Family Fun Run/Walk – 9:30 a.m

5K Run/Walk/1 Mile Family Fun Run/Walk  
Ada Leonard Field  
7490 Thornapple River Drive  
Ada, MI 49301



## SENIORS AND DISABLED CITIZENS OF ADA TOWNSHIP

**Please take note:** you can apply for deferment for 2012 summer tax if your household income **did not** exceed \$40,000 for the preceding calendar year and you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- You are 62 years or older
- Paraplegic or Quadriplegic
- Eligible serviceperson, veteran widow or widower
- Blind person
- Totally and permanently disabled

You may pick up a form at the Township Treasurer's Office at 7330 Thornapple River Dr., or call (616) 676-9191, ext. 27 to have a form mailed to you. The form is due September 14, 2012 by 5:00 p.m. If you had a deferment for 2011, a form will be, or already has been, mailed to you.

## TAX PAYMENT METHODS

Tax bills are scheduled to be mailed out July 1, 2012. These bills are due by September 14, 2012, 5:00 p.m. Remember the Township **DOES NOT** accept postmarks as date received. You have several options in paying your bill:

- As always you may come into the Township offices Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for holidays when the offices are closed. There is a drive-up drop box located at the end of the sidewalk at the Thornapple River Dr entrance to the Township offices.
- You can sign up for ACH, which allows the Township's bank to deduct payment from your bank. Call our offices for more information. Forms are also available on our website.
- You can also make payments with a credit card either by phone (800) 272-9829 or log onto our website: [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com). See the back of tax bill for further instructions. There is a fee of 3% of the tax bill charged by the credit card clearinghouse. ***CREDIT CARDS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES.***
- You can mail your payment to our office by using the enclosed envelope. ***REMEMBER THAT POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS DATE RECEIVED. ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 14, 2012, 5:00PM TO BE CONSIDERED ON TIME.***
- The Township accepts partial payments after July 1st when tax bills are released. Appropriate interest/penalties will apply to the unpaid balance after September 14th.

ada  
farmers  
market

eat local. eat healthy. eat fresh.

[www.adafarmersmarket.com](http://www.adafarmersmarket.com)

**TUESDAYS 12-6 PM**

June 19 through September 25

The Community Church • 7239 Thornapple River Dr

Follow us on 

## HEAT LACROSSE CAMP – JULY 16 TO 19

A "Heat Lacrosse" camp will be held at Ada Township Park on July 16, 17, 18 and 19, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The camp will teach lacrosse stick skills, and position specific drills. Children 6th grade and under will attend from 2:00-3:30 p.m., and 7th grade and older will attend from 3:30-5:00 p.m. The cost is \$160. Interested players can register at [www.heatlacrosse.com](http://www.heatlacrosse.com) or contact Kori Quinn at [kquinn85@comcast.net](mailto:kquinn85@comcast.net).

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY – JULY 14TH

In conjunction with Kent County's Household Hazardous Waste Program, Cascade & Ada Townships are sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on **Saturday July 14th**. Township residents wishing to dispose of their unused or unwanted household chemical waste are encouraged to bring them to this one day event. Chemicals such as weed killers, bug sprays, antifreeze, gasoline, oil-based paint, wood preservatives, paint thinner, pool chemicals, deck cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs, and mercury thermometers & thermostats can all be brought in for disposal.

The collection will run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will be held at Cascade Buttrick Station, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE.

Latex Paint, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, ammunition and fireworks are not accepted through this program.

*This Household Hazardous Waste Collection is for Ada and Cascade Township residents only.* No materials from business, schools, institutions or commercial farmers can be accepted. Please be prepared to show your driver's license for proof of residency

Additional questions on what's accepted for disposal may be directed to Kent County at 616-336-2570 or 1-888-217-2850 or go to the County's website at [www.recyclekent.org](http://www.recyclekent.org) and click on hazardous waste.

## SAFE DISPOSAL OF HOME CHEMICALS

The average home can accumulate and store as much as 100 pounds of hazardous substances in the basement, garage, storage closets, and under the kitchen sink.

- Each day Kent County residents dispose of thousands of pounds of unregulated household hazardous waste.
- The average household generates 15 pounds of hazardous waste per year.
- Household hazardous substances are often dangerous to humans when ingested, touched or breathed either separately or in combination with other substances.

Wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, landfills and (the waste-to-energy facility) were not built to handle hazardous chemicals

Normal disposal routes – home drains, storm drains and landfills – can transport these waste onto surface water or into groundwater and lead to contamination of the drinking water.

These products also have the potential to catch on fire, corrode, explode or if used inappropriately, can cause harm to another person, pet or the environment.

## GOT YOUR ZONING COMPLIANCE PERMIT?

A recent zoning amendment calls for the issuance of a zoning compliance permit by the Township, prior to any new construction or change in the principal use of any land or building in the Township. The intent of this change is to encourage property owners to make sure that proposed construction or a change in the primary use of property complies with the zoning rules, before undertaking the activity. Another benefit of the new requirement is that it provides the property owner with written documentation of compliance, rather than relying on a verbal confirmation alone, with no record.

For any construction that requires a building permit, there will be no change from the current procedures, in which the Township planning & zoning staff review all building permit applications to determine whether the proposed work conforms with the zoning rules.

The primary impact of the new requirement will be on construction activities that do not require a building permit, such as construction of buildings used for agricultural purposes, which are exempt from building permit requirements by State law. Anyone constructing an agricultural building will now need to submit a simple "plot plan" to the Township prior to construction, to obtain verification of zoning compliance.

The new requirement will also affect changes in use of existing buildings from one type of use category to another. For example, if the use of a building is proposed to be changed from a warehouse use to manufacturing, or from a residential use to an office use, a zoning compliance permit is required.

The zoning compliance permit application can be found on the Township web site, on the "Forms" page of the Planning & Zoning Department.

There is no fee required to obtain the required zoning compliance permit.



## FROM THE DESK OF DEPUTY RYAN ROE!

Summer is here and going by fast. I want to remind everyone of some general items of concern over summer vacation:

- The kids are out of school and playing outdoors. Please be cautious while driving. Many times drivers get distracted and a crash occurs. Please be diligent in areas that children frequent, including parking lots.
- Parents, please to talk to your children about bike safety. Children have to be aware of how important bike safety is. I encourage everyone that rides a bike to wear a helmet. When choosing clothing for biking, choose something bright, and don't ride in conditions with poor visibility. I also discourage any type of listening device while riding. A cyclist needs to be able to hear traffic. I would also recommend using the many bike paths throughout Kent County.
- The rising temperatures allow people to be active and outdoors. I ask that you consider your neighbors. The Sheriff's department has experienced an increase in noise complaints, ranging from barking dogs to loud parties. Remember, sound travels especially in the evening. A rule of thumb may be if it is dark outside, noise should be kept to a low level.
- HEAT. It is getting warmer and I want to remind residents to be aware of the temperature. Every year we have parents leave unattended children in the vehicle while they run into the store for "just a minute." I can tell you legally that is a crime. Under Michigan law 750.135A, children under 6 years of age cannot be left unattended for an amount of time that may cause unreasonable risk of harm or injury. Under the law, unattended means not being supervised by someone older than 13. You may think it is not that hot outside, but with windows down 2 inches on a day that is 83 degrees, it only takes 15 minutes for the inside car temperature to reach 109 degrees. That temperature is dangerous, especially for children according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Please enjoy the summer with family and friends, be safe and aware, Ryan.

[Ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov)

## A BUILDING PERMIT PRIMER

With the season for home remodeling, additions and major repair projects in full swing, residents and builders alike should not overlook obtaining a building permit prior to undertaking work.

The Michigan Building Code requires a building permit in order to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system

The building code contains a number of exemptions from the permit requirement, too numerous to list here in their entirety. However, notable exemptions include the following:

- Accessory buildings less than 200 square feet in floor area.
- Fences that are no more than 6 feet high.
- A building used for agricultural purposes, provided it is not used for human habitation, a place of employment where agricultural products are processed, treated or packaged, or a place used by the public, such as a farm market building.

Ordinary maintenance and repairs do not require building permits; however, please note that the following specific replacement work does require either a building permit or mechanical permit:

- Replacement of permanently installed mechanical equipment, including water heaters, furnaces and air conditioners.
- Replacement of roofing and exterior siding.

Also, replacement or installation of any deck that is elevated more than 30 inches above the ground requires a building permit.

Building permit application procedures can be found on the Township web site ([www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)). Starting with the "Government" tab on the top of the home page, go to "Departments" and click on the "Building Inspections" tab.

Answers to specific building-code related questions can be obtained by calling the Cascade Township Building Department (providing contract services to Ada Township), at 949-3765.

Please keep in mind that obtaining proper permits and inspections as required by law helps keep you, your family and visitors safe and secure.

# Ada Parks & Recreation Department

## Contact Information:

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

**E-mail:** [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com)

**Web site:** [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://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](mailto: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, pickle ball, basketball court, playground, fishing pond, trails, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, gazebos, Park offices, Learning Center and Locke Arboretum.

**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, wetlands, prairie, woods, Grand River shoreline.

**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.

## 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 & 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 schedule details or to reserve a time.

## Adult Programs

### Ada Adult Late Summer/Fall Softball Program

Fall league applications and entry fees for new or returning teams are due July 30 or up until leagues are filled. The leagues will feature 9 inning games. Contact the Park Office at 676-0520 or email [rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com) for an application or more information. Team fee of \$300 covers 6 games, balls, umpires and registration fees. Leagues run from August 13 to September 24th. AN OPTIONAL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

### Fall Season League Nights:

Mondays: Men's Slow Pitch, 2 divisions of play,

Tuesdays: Men's Slow Pitch (2 divisions of play),

Wednesdays: Co-ed (2 divisions of play)

Ada Parks and Recreation staff will assist individuals to organize a team if they want to register individually.

## Grand Rapids Triathlon / Road Closures

**Sunday, June 10**

**Starts and ends in Ada**

The GR Triathlon is open to novices through seasoned triathletes. It includes runs and biking on Thornapple River Dr., Buttrick Dr. and Grand River Dr. plus swimming in the Thornapple River. This event is USA Triathlon Sanctioned. For information or to register visit: [www.grandrapids-triathlon.com](http://www.grandrapids-triathlon.com)

**Note: Sections of Buttrick Dr. and Thornapple River Dr. will be closed on the evening of June 9 and during the day of June 10.**

## Run 4 a Cause... Our Kids!

**Saturday, June 16, 2012**

**Leonard Field Park**

*Run 4 a Cause* is a 5K run/walk and a 1 mile family fun run/walk that winds through historic township of Ada. The 5K will begin at 8:30 a.m. The 1 mile family fun run/walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. There will be fun events for children and families following the race. 100% of the proceeds will stay local to help children and families at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

To register for these events visit [www.classicrace.com](http://www.classicrace.com)

## Roselle Park River Festival

**Saturday, September 29, 2012**

**Roselle Park**

**1010 Grand River Dr.**

**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Free**

Mark your calendars now for the annual Festival at Roselle Park. The event will start at 9:00 a.m. with the new **Grand River Run**, an 8K run through the park and then a short fun run at 10:00 a.m. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be exhibits and fun activities for all ages plus food, music and river stewardship information.

- Exhibits by local conservation organizations
- Hands-on and discovery activities for kids
- Live Music
- Walking, hiking, biking
- Great Food
- Much more

# Ada Parks & Recreation Department *(con't)*

## Youth Programs

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

### Summer Day Camp Adventures

**Ages 6-11**

**Dates vary**

Summer Day Camps run for two or three day sessions on various weeks from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Younger campers



(6-7) may sign up for ½ day sessions. Each Camp starts at Ada Park with some days held at Roselle Park. Pioneer Days will be held at the Averill Historical Museum in Ada. Fees range from \$45 to \$70 per session. Pre-registration required. Forms are available through the Park Office or web site..

Session 1: Sports Spectacular	June 19, 20, 21
Session 2: Arts in the Park	June 26, 27, 28
Session 3: Water Wonders	July 10, 11, 12
Session 4: Eyes on Survival	July 24, 25, 26
Session 5: Pioneer Days	July 31, August 1
Session 6: Michigan Wildlife	August 14, 15, 16

**Discovery Days Ages 3-5 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon**  
**Ada Park Learning Center \$5/youth**

For pre-schoolers with a parent or guardian to have a fun, educational adventure in Ada Park. Each session will have an indoor hands-on activity, nature craft, and a guided discovery experience outdoors.

Jump, Frog, Jump!	Tuesday, June 12
Butterflies	Tuesday, July 17
Water Fun	Tuesday, August 7

**Young Explorers Ages 5-7 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon**  
**Ada Park Learning Center \$5/youth**

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

Fishing Fun	Wednesday June 13
Bonkers for Bikes	Wednesday July 18
Creepy Crawlies	Wednesday August 8

**Junior Naturalist Ages 8-11 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon**  
**Ada Park Learning Center \$5/youth**

Hands-on nature and science activities, crafts, games, snacks, and outdoor adventure based outings.

Parents or guardians may attend or drop off youth.

Fishing Frenzy	Thursday June 14
Bike- a-thon	Thursday July 19
Incredible Insects	Thursday August 9

## Youth Programs (cont.)

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

### Youth Tennis Lessons at Ada Township Park

Group tennis lessons for youth 3-12 years old. Sessions will be offered April and August, set up by ages. Registration and instruction is provided by the YMCA of Grand Rapids. Contact the YMCA by phone at 616-855-9622 or email: [nherrema@grymca.org](mailto:nherrema@grymca.org).

### Bike Decorating Day

**Tuesday, July 3 10 a.m. to 12 noon**  
**Ada Township Park \$3 per youth**

Bring your bike out to the Ada Township Park Shelter to decorate it just in time for the 4th of July Parade in Ada! Helpers and materials will be available. For 4 – 12 year olds with parent or guardian. Register on site.

### 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.

## Thank You Volunteers!

**1001 Thanks to all** the volunteers that helped out in the Parks this spring, including:

The many Stewardship Volunteers that helped do spring clean up of our gardens, cleaning up the Backyard Habitats, pulling Garlic Mustard, making a new trail and much more.

The Thornapple Valley Lions Club for donating dozens of young trees for the Parks!

The students of Northern Trails School for cleaning of the streets of Ada Village, pulling Garlic Mustard and planting trees at Leonard Field.

To the Students of Forest Hills Eastern School for pulling Garlic Mustard and planting trees in Ada Park.

The instructors that helped with our youth programs.

### We couldn't have done it without you!

If you are interested in volunteering with Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department, contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.

**CALENDAR {2012}****JUNE**

- 4 Downtown Development Authority – 8:30 a.m.
- 5 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30 p.m.
- 10 **GR 2nd Annual TRIATHLON\***
- 11 Ada Township Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 12 **ADAMS FAMILY - Music On The Lawn\***
- 14 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 **3rd Annual Run 4 a Cause... Our Kids\***
- 19 **1st Farmers' Market of 2012 Season!\***
- 19 **KINFYRE - Music On The Lawn\***
- 21 Planning Commission – 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Ada Twp. Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m..
- 26 **Farmers' Market\***
- 26 **VOICES OF FREEDOM – Music On The Lawn\***

**JULY**

- 2 Downtown Development Authority – 8:30 a.m.
- 3 **Bike Decorating Day – 10-12:00 p.m.\***
- 3 **Farmers' Market \***
- 4 **Office closed, Township Celebration!\***
- 9 Ada Twp. Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 9 **Last Day to Register to Vote, for Aug. 7 Primary**
- 10 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30 p.m.
- 10 **Farmers' Market\***
- 10 **BLUEWATER RAMBLERS – Music On The Lawn \***
- 12 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day\***
- 16 Ethics Board – 6:30 p.m.
- 17 **Farmers' Market \***
- 17 **3X COOL – Music On The Lawn\***

- 19 Planning Commission – 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Ada Twp. Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 24 **Farmers' Market\***
- 24 **13TH HOUR – Music On The Lawn\***
- 31 **Farmers' Market\***

**AUGUST**

- 3 **NOWHERE BAND – Music On The Lawn\***
- 3 **August In Ada**
- 6 Downtown Development Authority – 8:30 a.m.
- 7 **State Primary Election – 7 a.m.-8:00 p.m.\***
- 7 **Farmers' Market\***
- 7 **JAVA JIVE – Music On The Lawn\***
- 9 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 **Thornapple River Expedition\***
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30 p.m.
- 14 **Farmers' Market\***
- 14 **TOM HAGEN TRIO – Music On The Lawn\***
- 16 Planning Commission – 7:30 p.m.
- 21 **HAWKS & OWLS – Music On The Lawn\***
- 27 Ada Twp. Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 28 **Farmers' Market\***
- 28 **TONY REYNOLDS – Music On The Lawn\***

\*See article

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

AdaView is published by Ada Township Board.  
7330 Thornapple River Drive SE., P.O. Box 370,  
Ada, Michigan 49301

**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**

George Haga, Ext. 50, P.O. Box 370, Ada, 49301  
[ghaga@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:ghaga@adatownshipmi.com)

**Clerk**

Susan Burton, Ext. 21, P.O. Box 370, Ada, 49301  
[sburton@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:sburton@adatownshipmi.com)

**Treasurer**

Norm Rhoades, Ext. 23, P.O. Box 370, Ada, 49301  
[nrhoades@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:nrhoades@adatownshipmi.com)

**Trustee: Paul LeBlanc**

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

**Trustee: Bob Proos**

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

**Trustee: Jackie Smith**

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

**Trustee: John Westra**

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

**Editor:** Susan Burton, Ada Township Clerk

**Co-Editor:** Renee Larsen

**Design & Printing:** Falcon Printing



**7330 Thornapple River Drive SE.  
P.O. Box 370  
Ada, Michigan 49301**

PRSR. STD.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 657