

**Publication Notes . . .**

Ada View is published by Ada Township Board  
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Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8 am to 5 pm  
Closed Holidays

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**How are we doing?**

The Ada Township Board and staff are always interested in your comments and ideas. Please, contact us at the Ada Township Hall 7330 Thornapple River Drive PO Box 370 Ada MI 49301 or by accessing our web site at www.ada.mi.us, we are very interested in what you have to say so please do not hesitate to share your concerns and/or ideas.

Monday–Friday 8AM–5PM (616) 676-9191

Please Note we are currently updating the Ada Township Website, soon you will be able to access many of the things that interest you at the “click” of your mouse from your home! (under construction)

**Farmers Market Fridays**

11am–4pm  
(Unless sold out)  
on the corner of Headley and  
Thornapple River Drive  
(at the Ada Historic Barn)

**NEW VENDORS  
FRESH PRODUCE  
FRESH BREAD  
And MORE!!!!**

**We Need You!**

Many of the Events that take place in the Township could never happen without citizen involvement! Be an active part of your Local Government!

Park Committee  
4th of July Committee  
Neighborhood Watch  
Ada Historical Society  
Ada Council for the Arts  
Election Inspectors

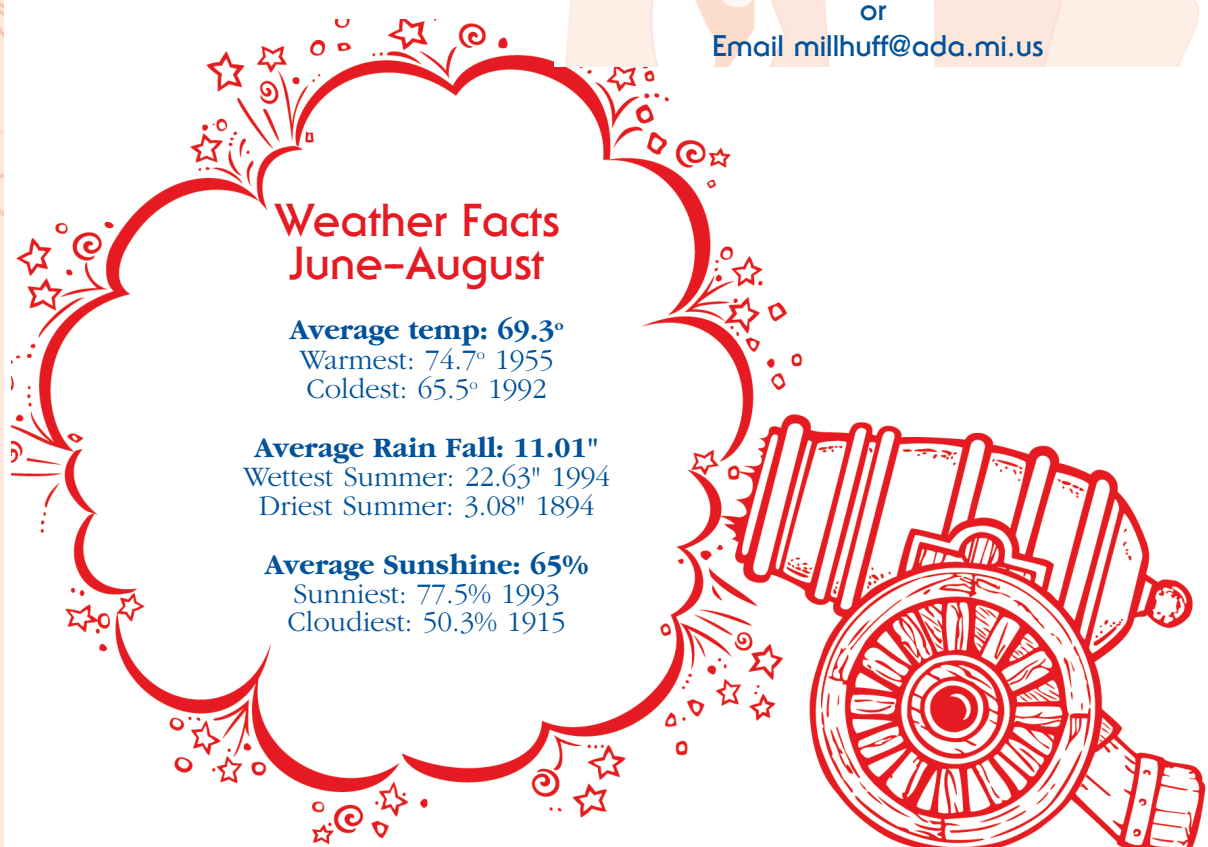
To get involved Please Contact:  
Clerk Deb Millhuff  
616-676-9191ext: 21  
or  
Email millhuff@ada.mi.us

**Weather Facts  
June–August**

**Average temp: 69.3°**  
Warmest: 74.7° 1955  
Coldest: 65.5° 1992

**Average Rain Fall: 11.01"**  
Wettest Summer: 22.63" 1994  
Driest Summer: 3.08" 1894

**Average Sunshine: 65%**  
Sunniest: 77.5% 1993  
Cloudiest: 50.3% 1915



**THE ADAVIEW**

The pessimist may be right in the long run, but the optimist has a much better time along the way!

**All American  
4th of July  
Celebration!**

Ada Township will celebrate Independence Day on Friday July 4th, 2003. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration!

**Fireworks at dusk  
on Thursday  
July 3rd, 2003  
Forest Hills  
Central HS**

Friday July 4th, 2003 Schedule

- 7–9:30 AM... Fireman’s Pancake Breakfast
- 8:00 AM... Thornapple Lion’s Annual Flea Market
- 9:30 AM... Parade Line-up
- 10:00 AM... PARADE BEGINS
- 10:30 AM–3 PM... Games, Rides, Virtual Pictures, Arts and Crafts, Live Music and much, much more!
- Noon–12:30 PM... Classic Car Show Award

All Parade Floats are judged for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Best of Show!

**NEW RIDES! NEW ART!  
LIVE MUSIC!  
FUN FOR FAMILY!**

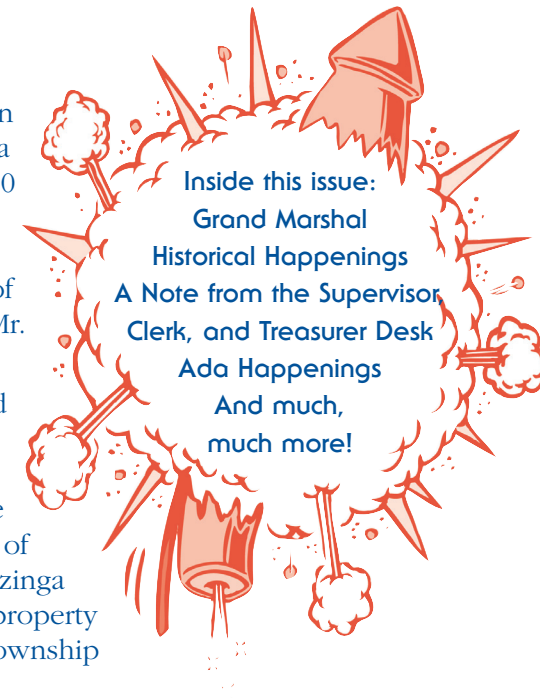
**FIREWORKS  
Thursday JULY 3rd**

**Grand Marshall**

This years Grand Marshall, Mr. Ryven “Carl” Ezinga upon discovering Ada Township’s desire to purchase 270 acres of land along the Grand River he quietly and generously volunteered to donate the funds needed in memory of his wife and best friend Roselle. Mr. Ezinga asked nothing in return.

However, having heard how he and his wife spent many hours walking along the river the Park Committee and the Township Board named the future park “Roselle Park” in honor of the Ezinga family. With this gift Mr. Ezinga has given us a legacy of river front property for each and every resident of Ada Township to enjoy.

Our gratitude will never match his benevolent spirit. When you see Mr. Ezinga in the parade thank him for his kindness and generosity to our township!



Inside this issue:  
Grand Marshal  
Historical Happenings  
A Note from the Supervisor  
Clerk, and Treasurer Desk  
Ada Happenings  
And much,  
much more!

**Your Claim  
Your Fame!**

The Community Media Center celebrates its 21st anniversary and for the 9th year the Ada Township Independence Day Parade will be filmed and aired on GRTV channel 25, which is part of the Community Media Center located at 711 Bridge St SW.

Stop by the Ada Township Hall (Bronson Street) during the parade or by the Mobile Media Truck on the green to claim a few of your 15 minutes of fame. If you are interested in being a part of the Lights, Camera and Action next year contact the Media Center at 459-4788 to find out how.

**A Dream  
Come True  
Auction!**

Ever Dream about cruising down the highway with the top down in a vintage powder blue 1962 Tempest LeMans?

**Here’s you chance!**

Silent bids will be taken “On the Green” after the parade. Come On Down! The highest bidder is the winner ... It’s just a bid away! (all proceeds go to [In the Image](#))



# Veterans Remembered

Take a stroll through either one of Ada's cemeteries, Findlay, located on 2 Mile Road or Ada Cemetery, located on Fulton Street. Notice the American flags proudly displayed on numerous gravesites in both cemeteries. The flags denote the graves of veterans from this area who served in the Civil War, Mexican-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

There are more than eighty gravesites so designated. Twelve from the Civil War, one from the Mexican-American War, twenty four from World War I, thirty nine from World War II, four from the Korean War, and three from the Vietnam War.

Among the honored veterans are four killed in World War I. They are Adrian Davidse, Clarence Hill, Peter Jasperse, Jr., and Frank Cole. There is a plaque hanging in the Averill Historical Museum of Ada honoring these men and also Robert Stevens, Jasper Spidell, Leland Swan, Frank Kamp, Orlo Myers, Harry Gould, Rollen Fraser, Daniel Cooper and John Boss, all of whom sacrificed their lives in World War II.

These men gave their lives so that all of us and our descendants could have a safer life and they had high hopes for a peaceful world.

Then, there are those still among us who performed indescribable acts of bravery, such as Bruce Roark, who served in Vietnam. A Marine veteran, Bruce was with five companies of Marines on a hill two miles west of Khe Sanh when the Communists attacked. Bruce saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers by using a grenade launcher like a baseball bat to knock grenades back to the enemy.

He also charged a mortar pit and knocked it out, receiving two wounds in the process. He was evacuated to a hospital ship for treatment of his wounds, where he also received a commendation for saving the lives of his men.

Don't forget these men and the sacrifices they made. In the Averill Historical Museum of Ada they are being especially remembered during Memorial Day and the Fourth of July celebrations.

You will also find a Civil War discharge document, posters requesting food for Europe and war bonds for World War I; a photo of Max Souzer who served in World War I and World War II, and the flag from "The Michigan," a ship he served on in the early 1900s.

There is a blue star from World War II that was hung in a family's window to signify a family member in service to their country. A gold star signified that the service man or woman had been killed. This tradition of displaying the blue or gold stars has begun again in the latest war with Iraq.

Take time to quietly stroll through one or both of our lovely cemeteries and remember those who gave their lives for us.



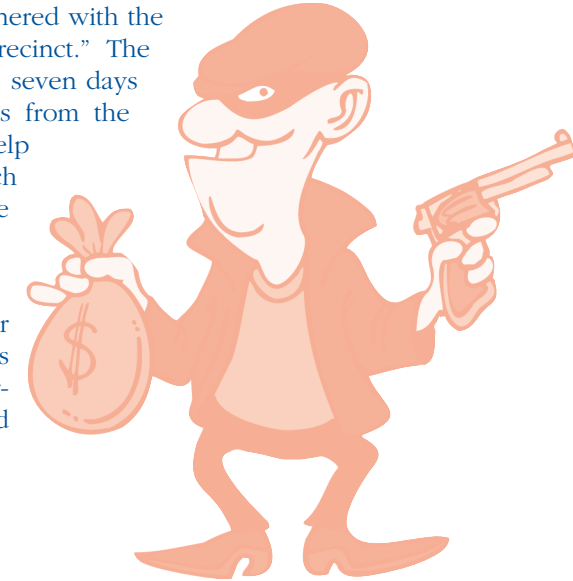
# Neighborhood Watch Update

Ada, Cascade, and Grand Rapids Township have partnered with the Kent County Sheriff's Department to create the "East Precinct." The advantage to all residents within this area is 24 hours, seven days a week, additional coverage, with two (2) Deputies from the Community Services Unit designated to the area to help establish and work with existing Neighborhood Watch programs as well as being closely involved with the residents and board members!

Neighboring is best defined as knowing who your neighbors are; know their children and vehicles. This helps each of us to define suspicious vehicles or persons in our neighborhood and to help prevent and deter crime.

Interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch?  
Would you like more information?  
Phone... 336-3118.

**REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES and/or BEHAVIOR  
TO THE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.  
(616) 336-0520**



**FRIENDS OF THE  
CASCADE LIBRARY**  
2870 JACKSMITH AVE. SE  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546

June 2, 2003

Cascade Friends of the Library 30th Annual Used Book Sale to be held in the Cascade Library Parking Lot on Friday July 4th from 8:30 am-3:30 pm.

There will be a great selection of used books for adults, young adults and children. Hardcover books as well as paperbacks will be available in many categories, including fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks and biographies. Also of interest are dozens of collectibles as well as a collection of CDs, audio and videocassettes, and vinyl records. Donations are welcome at the drop-off box located next to the door at the rear of the library building. Please call the library at 647-3850 for more information. Proceeds support the Cascade Library.

Thank you for your continued support of our Friends group.  
Christine Evans-616-954-0913  
Durelle Evans-616-949-1544  
Publicity for Friends of the Cascade Library

**Safety Hints:  
For a fun in  
the sun  
summer!**

When walking in an area without a trail or sidewalk always walk facing the traffic!

When walking or riding your bike always stop prior to crossing the street!

When walking or riding stay aware; watch for cars backing out of driveways or pulling out at intersections!





**Meeting Dates**

Township Board  
2nd and 4th Monday  
7:30pm

July ...14

July ...28

August...11

August...25

September...8

September...22

Planning  
Commission  
3rd Thursday every  
month

7:30pm

July 17

August 21

September 18

Zoning Board of  
Appeals

1st Tuesday every  
month

4:30pm

July 1

August 5

September 2

If you would like to  
receive agendas and  
minutes via e-mail  
please contact :

Clerk Deb Ensing  
Millhuff  
millhuff@ada.mi.us  
or call 676-9191  
ext:21

**A Note from  
the Supervisor**

**Here's Your Chance!**

A variety of opportunities to participate in local government operations will be available this year and next to Ada Township citizens.

The following is a list of different boards and commissions with Township citizens serving on them.

- PLANNING COMMISSION
- ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
- BOARD OF REVIEW
- COMPENSATION COMMISSION

If you are interested in getting more involved in our community please send a letter of interest with past experience to:

Ada Township  
POB 370  
Ada MI 49301  
or online at  
www.ada.mi.us

(Address inquiries regarding the Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals to the Supervisor)

**Roselle Park Master Planning Underway**

Efforts are now underway by a 7-member Steering Committee to prepare an overall Master Plan for the development of Roselle Park on Grand River Dr. The Township Board recently approved a contract with a consultant team headed up by park planning and design firm O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, to assist in preparing plans for the park.

In addition to park planning and design expertise, the consultant team includes architects to help assess whether any existing buildings or structures on the park site are suitable for re-use, a team of biological experts to assess plant and animal habitat on the property, and engineers to evaluate floodplain constraints on development of park facilities.

Watch for future public announcements in the news media and at the Township offices regarding upcoming public input opportunities.

Demolition work is also underway to remove a fire-damaged cattle barn at the rear of the processing plant. As plans for the park take shape, it is hoped that additional demolition can be completed this year to remove additional buildings on the property.

**A Note from  
the Treasurer**

Summer tax bills for 2003 are expected to be in your mail on July 1, 2003.

The Deputy Treasurer and I want to remind you that Deferment Applications are available to those taxpayers who qualify. All applications must meet the household income requirements of an annual income of \$25,000 or less. The application contains five additional qualifying requirements of which at least one must be selected. Forms will be mailed to those who qualified last year. If you did not qualify last year and/or need one for this year, call the Treasurers office and we will be happy to mail one to you.

Treasurer Carolyn Soderberg....  
616-676-9191 ext: 23  
Deputy Treasurer: Barbara ext: 27  
Admin Support: Dolores ext: 22

**News from Ada Park**

Softball season is well underway and we're still wondering when warmer temperatures are going to arrive. It has been another crazy spring weather-wise but that hasn't interfered with the activities at Ada Park and Leonard Field. Summer programs will soon be underway and before we know it, the summer will be over and we'll be wondering where it went!

You will see the calendar of spring programs within this Adaview. You can register by phone on Mondays of the week of the program. For example, we will begin registering for the programs on June 24, 25, & 26 on Monday, June 23. Call the Park Office at 676-0520 to register. You will be able to register for the Craft Camp (August 4-8) on Monday, July 28. If you did not receive a flyer with the detailed program descriptions you can obtain one at the Ada Township Hall or the Park Office located at Ada Park.

Unfortunately our tennis instructor, Anne Sukup, is not available to teach tennis lessons this summer. She has a good reason. Anne will be busy planning her wedding that will take place this fall! Congratulations go out to Anne and her future husband on the upcoming nuptials.



**Attention  
Fishermen!**

Last summer we were able to eliminate two of the pike from the Ada Park ponds. One was 28" and the other was 27"! Unfortunately, they weren't the only ones in the pond. There are still two large pike that we know of. One is larger than those caught last year and one is slightly smaller. If you fish at Ada Park and happen to catch a pike of any size, please do not throw it back in. We need to eliminate the pike before we can restock the pond with bluegill. If you happen to catch any pike larger than 18", please notify Wendy at the Park Office.

**Parks Department  
Expanding**

You've probably heard the news about the former Ada Beef property becoming the new Roselle Park. Recently the firm of O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates was hired by the Township to develop the master plan for the 236-acre park. Part of this planning process will involve public meetings where you will be able to give your input for what you'd like to see there. Most of the property is flood plain, but approximately 20 -acres can be developed. Watch the local newspapers for announcements of public meetings. We hope to have a finalized plan in October.

**Mark your Calendar  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!  
PUBLIC INPUT WANTED  
Tuesday September 9, 2003  
1PM-8PM  
Ada Township Park  
Les Craig Learning Center**

**This year  
(2003), the  
United States  
of America  
is celebrating  
its 227th  
birthday**

**The signing  
of the  
Declaration  
was not  
completed  
until August  
of 1776,  
but the  
4th of July  
has been  
accepted  
as the  
anniversary  
of United States  
Independence!!!**



# August In Ada Children's Fair

FRIDAY AUGUST 1, 2003  
10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

August in Ada is an annual Children's Fair sponsored by the businesses in Ada and presented as a "Thank You" to the community for their support.

The Crafts are free as well as several rides, a petting zoo, pony rides, \$5 haircuts, and various displays, costumed characters (Ronald McDonald show at 12:00p.m.) and exhibitions by the fire department and local law enforcement. The event is held in the open lawn area across from Alticor (Amway) Corporate Headquarters at 7575 E. Fulton on Friday, August 1 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

All proceeds from the sale of donated food and water go directly to the Ronald McDonald House and the cost of the event is covered by individual donations from the Ada Business Association members and area businesses.

Major sponsors: Country Fresh, Alticor, Forest Hills Foods, Heidi Christine's Salon and Day Spa, Egypt Valley Country Club.

Contact: Terie Vickery 897-1273  
Debbie Schuhman 235-6227  
ABA Hotline 752-8011

# Music On The Lawn At the Ada Historical Museum

- |  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| July 8th 7:00 pm – Bascom McGhee Band      | 12 | 7 pm: MUSIC ON THE LAWN-The Singing Strings! |
| August 12th 7:00 pm – The Singing Strings  | 15 | 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market                  |
| September 9th 7:00 pm – Bascom McGhee Band | 22 | 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market                  |
|  | 29 | 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market                  |

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### JULY

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE! Check out our Veterans' float!
- 8 7 pm: MUSIC ON THE LAWN-Bascom McGhee Band!
- 11 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market
- 12 1 pm: Ada Historical Society Meeting
- 15 7 pm: FIREARMS FROM THE PAST- Chuck Vandenberg will present a special program in the museum. (Tentative)
- 18 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market
- 25 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market

### AUGUST

- 1 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market
- 8 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market
- 9 1 pm: Ada Historical Society Meeting

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market
- 9 7 pm: MUSIC ON THE LAWN-Bascom McGhee
- 12 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market
- 13 1 pm: Ada Historical Society Meeting
- 13 7 pm: BARN DANCE-The Singing Strings!
- 19 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market
- 20 ART AT THE AVERILL
- 26 11 am-6 pm: Farmer's Market



From the Desk of the Clerk

# Happy Birthday America!

Independence Day commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The United States consisted of 13 colonies under the rule of England's King George III. There was growing unrest among the colonists concerning the practice of "Taxation without Representation." This terminology was used because colonists did not have any representation in the English Parliament and had no say in what went on. As the unrest grew King George sent additional troops to control any rebellion. In 1774 the 13 colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to form the First Continental Congress. In 1774 most colonists were unhappy with the oppression of England but were not convinced taking up arms against the Motherland was the answer.

However in April 1775 the King's troops advanced on Concord Massachusetts. Paul Revere would sound the alarm that "The British are coming", and even though Paul Revere never rode through the towns crying out "The British are coming," he played a crucial part in the American Revolution and the battle of Concord and its "shot heard round the world." This would mark the unofficial beginning of the colonies' war for Independence.

The following May the colonies again sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. For almost a year the congress tried to work out its differences with England, without formally declaring war.

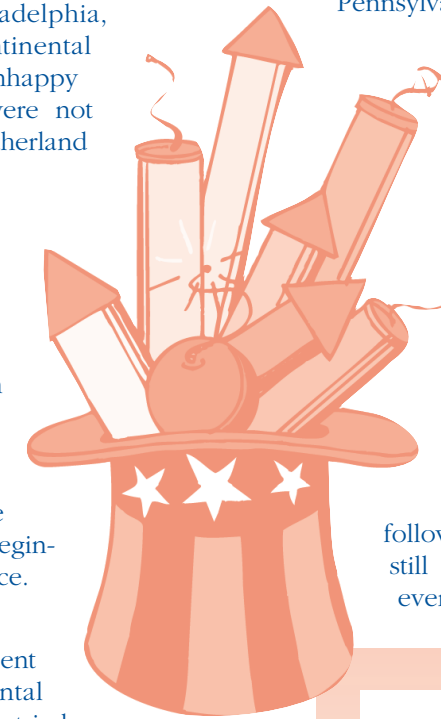
By June 1776 it was evident that peaceful efforts were hopeless and a committee was formed to compose a formal declaration of independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston and Roger Sherman. Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft, which was presented to the congress on June 28. Changes were made, including the Southern Colonies refusing to sign anything that would abolish slavery. Jefferson was irate stating that anything that dealt with independence but did not abolish slavery was a mockery and refused to sign. However, John Adams (at that time more of an adversary to Jefferson than a friend) convinced Jefferson it was most important to gain Independence from England; then the battle of slavery and other issues could be addressed. A vote was taken late in the afternoon of July 4th. Of the 13 colonies, 9 voted in favor of the Declaration, 2—Pennsylvania and South

Carolina—voted No, Delaware undecided and New York abstained.

To make it official John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. It is said that John Hancock signed his name "with a great flourish" so "King George can read that without spectacles!"

The following day copies of the Declaration were distributed. The first newspaper to print the Declaration was the Pennsylvania Evening Post on July 6, 1776. On July 8th the Declaration had its first public reading in Philadelphia's Independence Square. Twice that day the Declaration was read to cheering crowds and the ring of all the church bells. The bell in Independence Hall known as the "Province Bell" was later renamed the "Liberty Bell" and it too was rung to "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof."

And although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4th of July has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence. The first Independence Day celebration took place the following year—July 4 1777, hence 227 years later we still celebrate our Independence, Americas' Birthday every 4th of July!!



## The Declaration of Independence is on the Road

View the document that has inspired Freedom throughout the world!  
Gerald R Ford Museum  
303 Pearl St NW  
July 11-31, 2003 9am-5pm  
[www.IndependenceRoadTrip.org](http://www.IndependenceRoadTrip.org)

