

THE ADAVIEW

"Only you can be yourself ...no- one else is qualified for the job!"

Inside this Issue:

Historical Updates

Park News Update

Note from the Supervisor,
Clerk, and Treasurer

Neighborhood Watch Updates

Winter Safety Tips, and much,
much more

Be a Santa Helper!

If you would like to part of Santa's worldwide family and be part of the Holiday activities in Ada Township please just say yes and be there on Saturday December 3rd by 10:00AM in front of Vitales!

Happy Holidays in Ada Township

Santa Claus is coming to Town!

Saturday December 3rd, 2005

11:00 AM Parade



Encore! Encore!

Mr. Santa Claus in his generosity has agreed to return to the wonderful Village of Ada during his most hectic season to honor his commitment to the residents of Ada Township to return annually on the 1st Saturday in December as the Grand Marshal for the Ada Holiday Parade!

Mr. Claus is the oldest living worldwide entrepreneur he has raised the bar in toy manufacturing every year of his business career. He set the standard that all other manufacturers have tried to achieve for centuries. Mr. Claus is the most popular business owner in the world with a heart of gold and never a cross word about anyone is uttered from his lips!

Throughout centuries Mr. & Mrs. Claus and their merry band of elves have shared their expertise

unselfishly and spread their charitable spirit universally. Mr. Claus told the Ada Township Clerk, "Mrs. Claus and I decided our life would never be complete unless we could share happiness and bring joy to others." Mr. Claus added "We believe by example we may inspire others to bring peace and goodwill to all."

Mr. Claus again confirmed he has been visiting Ada Township every December 24th for over 150 years but declined to share any stories about the Thorn, Liptke, Hungerford,, Hoover, Peather, Barker, Brouwer, Feilds and other Ada Township families; saying their secrets are his secrets and he has never betrayed a secret in over 200 years.

Thank you Mr. Claus!

You Better Watch Out!

Saturday December 4th, 2005

10:30AM Parade Line-Up (Ada Drive/ Thornapple Shopping Ctr.)

11:00 AM PARADE BEGINS!

(the parade route will start at the Shopping Center turn right on Thornapple and end at Fire Station #1)

11:30 AM Meet Santa, free hot chocolate and cookies at Fire Station #1

(Compliments of the Ada Fire Association and Ada Township Board)

Operation Santa Claus

You may drop off donations for Operation Santa Claus Monday –Friday 8AM-5PM until December 15th, 2005 at the Ada Township Offices.

Items needed; Toys, Clothing, Canned Goods, Blankets and household items. Please bring freshly washed and gently used clothing only.

Questions on what is needed or for monetary donations please contact; Robert Gaskell at 949-0197

All items received by Operation Santa Claus are distributed throughout the Forest Hills District.

From My Home Town

By Elinor Washburn Staskus



Bill Furner's Grocery and meat Market—how well I recall this particular establishment!

The meat carcasses were hung in quarters in the cooler. When you purchased meat from Bill, he would brush the top of the big meat block, slap a quarter beef on the block and, depending what cut you preferred, he would cut a slab of steak—or whatever your choice—take the meat saw down from the post where it hung, saw through the bone, weigh it, wrap it, and send you on your merry way. Also located in the back of the store (behind the meat department) was a hand-operated kerosene pump where you could purchase coal oil for your kerosene lamps.

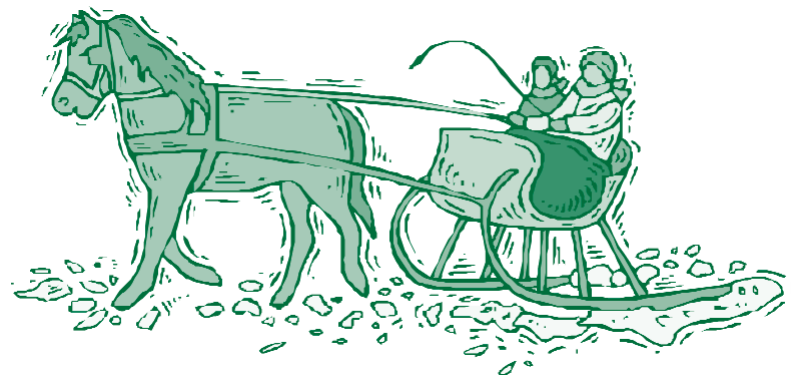
He also had a big, round, yellow cheese in a glass case and, using a big, long knife, he sliced off any amount you desired. Also, beside that he had a cracker barrel and a dill pickle barrel.

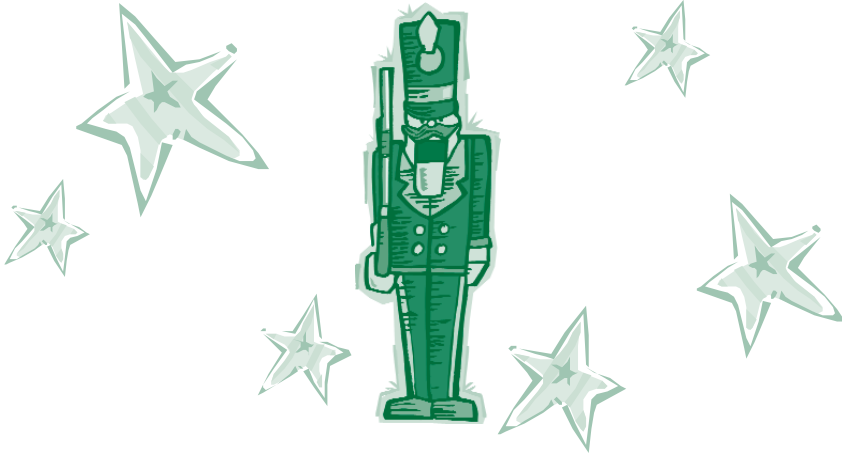
In the wintertime, a pot-bellied woodstove graced the premises. This was located in the middle of the store and it was here that the “old timers” gathered to discuss town politics, world problems, and small-town gossip. During the warm summer months, they sat on benches located in front of the store, enjoyed the sunshine, and watched the world go by. Sammy

Sisson was one of the old timers. Every evening he walked down the Ada hill to check things out. He was the town constable and wore his badge with a great deal of pride. All year around he wore a slouch felt hat and knee-high rubber boots. He is certainly part of Ada's history. Sammy used to make little wren houses for me in the summer. He was a very colorful and special person.

A big stalk of bananas was suspended from the ceiling in the center of Bill's store. Sometimes he would catch a big spider (tarantula no doubt) hiding among the bananas. He would capture the spider, place it in a glass jar, and put it on display on his counter. Bill also had a big candy case just loaded with penny candy!

Now, to the rear of Furner's store (facing what was then the lower Ada road). Here, was Bill's ice house. Ice was cut in large squares and stored in sawdust in this building for future use as refrigeration. My father, George Washburn, was hired to cut and deliver this ice. This was done on the backwaters of the Thornapple River during severe cold winter days. It was delivered by a team of horses pulling a big sleigh equipped with wide ski-like runners. The horses were equipped with special shoes called “caulks” to prevent them from slipping.





*Historical Presentation
Collecting Vintage Christmas
Friday December 2, 2005
2 p.m.
Averill Historical Museum of Ada
7144 Headley
(Across from Post Office)
No Admission
Donation Welcome*

Holiday Wreaths!

*December 3rd
Averill Historical Museum of Ada
9AM-4PM*

*Cookies for the kids to decorate!
Movie Passes
Hot Chocolate*



Ada Township Meetings

Board Meeting

*2nd and 4th Monday of
Month-7:30 PM
December 12th
January 9th
January 23rd
February 13th
February 27th
March 13th
March 27th*

Zoning Board of Appeals

*1st Tuesday of Month-
4:30PM
December 6th
January 3rd
February 7th
March 7th*

Planning Commission

*3rd Thursday of Month-
7:30PM
December 15th
February 16th
March 16th*

Dates for Office Closing

*January 16th
February 20th*

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ada Township Assessor's Office will be working the rest of the calendar year to collect front digital photography of all dwellings in Ada Township. Our office will continue the collection again in the spring of 2006.

INFORM THE ASSESSOR OF YOUR MAILING ADDRESS UPDATES

Please contact our offices within thirty (30) days after a change of address occurs to update your information. The assessor's office provides all entities with correct property and mailing addresses. Correct address information will reduce the postage costs involved in notifying you of changes, news, tax bills, and ensure proper delivery of your assessment change notices (delivered annually in March).

The information needed includes: Property Owner's Name, Property Address, old mailing address; moreover, the new mailing address. Please help to by making sure that you have provided in writing an address change request to: Ada Township Assessor, PO Box 370, Ada, MI 49301.

FIELD INSPECTIONS

Ada Township Assessor's Office will be working on all open building permits prior to 2005; as well as, those permits pulled for new construction since January 1 of 2005. Heather Yeager, CMAE II and Hollie Brousseau, CMAE II, from Appraisal Plus Group will be performing these inspections.

Our offices are currently reviewing all property record cards in Ada Township for conversion from a DOS versioned Assessment Database to a Windows Assessment Valuation program. These individual reviews involve: collecting a digital photo, review of land values, Style of dwelling definitions, interpretation of building data on paper record cards to a sketching program; and a valuation review.

As we are reviewing the information on each record card, it may be necessary for our offices to make a physical inspection of your property to verify information contained on the original record card. Our office is taking every precaution to make sure that the information is correct and accurate. Please be aware that we will be making these types of inspections throughout the remainder of the calendar year in 2005; moreover, again in the 2006 calendar year. The individuals performing these inspections will be Heather Yeager, CMAE II and Hollie Brousseau, CMAE II of Appraisal Plus Group.



DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

Ada Township December Board of Review will be meeting on December 13, 2006 to hear petitions for late filed Principal Residence Exemptions for owners that owned and occupied prior to May 1 of the tax year they are seeking the exemption for a current year plus up to three years prior. Hardship Applications will be available for the 2005 tax year for individuals that meet the requirements for this exemption. Property owner's whom have submitted documents for the December Board of Review regarding these matters will receive their winter tax bill, sent out December 1, 2005; upon the granting of the petition at the December Board of Review meeting on December 13, 2005, a revised tax bill will be sent to you.

Granting of petitions for years prior to 2005 will be sent to the Kent County Treasurer's office. A revised tax bill or refund for over-payment of tax will be sent by their office.

Application and guidelines for Hardship are available at the Ada Township Assessor's office.

Applications for Principal Residence Exemption are available on line at: www.ada.mi.us on the red tool bar, select: Assessing/Tax, Search for your street and click on the GO button. Select your address and click the GO button. The online form is titled [HYPERLINK "http://www.addorio.com/Ada/Forms/2368f_2605_7.pdf"](http://www.addorio.com/Ada/Forms/2368f_2605_7.pdf) \t "_blank" 2368, Affidavit for Homestead Exemption . You may also contact our offices for a copy of this form to be sent to you by US mail.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED WITH THE ADA TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR'S OFFICE BY 5:00PM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005

NOTICE ADA TOWNSHIP DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The Ada Township Board of Review will meet to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact relative to correcting

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK (continued)

assessment figures, due to situations involving hardship exemptions, homestead exemptions, and qualified agricultural exemptions. All other disputes are to be considered by the March Board of Review. The December Board of Review open session will be held at the Ada Township offices, 7330 Thornapple River Road, Ada, MI 49301 as follows:

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

From 9:00am to 10:00am

Property Owners requesting applications for principal residence exemption (**copy of your current Drivers License submitted with your occupancy documentation**), qualified agricultural, and hardship exemptions must be received by the Assessor's office prior to **Friday, December 9, 2005 @ 5:00pm**. All requests should be submitted to the Assessor's office. The office number is (616) 676-9191x 26 or 32.

2006 PERSONAL PROPERTY STATEMENTS

2006 Personal Property Statements will be mailed out at the end of December 2005. These statements must be postmarked no later than the statutory filing date to be considered filed timely. Statements received after this date will receive an assessment change notice that reflects and estimated assessment for the 2006 tax year. Property owner's in possession of personal property can petition the 2006 March Board of Review to correct the estimated assessment placed on the roll by the Assessor by filing the 2006 Personal Property Statement that was required to be filed by the statutory deadline. The petition can request that the March Board of Review revise the assessment to reflect the late filed Personal Property Statement. Upon adjournment of the 2006 March Board of Review, no additional personal property statements filed will be considered for the 2006 tax year.

2006 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

2006 Assessments will be sent out no later than 10 day before the scheduled appeals sessions. The assessor's office will begin taking appointments on March 3, 2006 for hearings to be held on the following days:

Monday, March 13, 2006
from 9:00am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Tuesday, March 14, 2006
from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and 6:00pm to 9:00pm

This will be your only opportunity to appeal the 2006 assessment. July and December Boards of Review held during the calendar year do not have jurisdiction over your assessment.



A Note from the Treasurer's Office

Winter 2005 tax bills will be mailed by the first week in December. The usual payment options apply; by mail, in person, drop box and by credit card (fees are charged). Additionally, you may now sign up for ACH electronic payments. (That is, by completing an automatic bill payment authorization form and returning the completed form to the Treasurer's Office your tax payment will be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.) Please contact the Treasurer's Office at (616) 676-9191 ext. 27 or 23 for details. The last day to pay taxes is Tuesday, February 14, 2006 by 5:00 pm.

Postmarks are not accepted.

Please note the Township has a new drop box located by the sidewalk to the left of the building, and you may now drop off your payments from your car.

Dog tags will be on sale at the Treasurer's Office from the first week in December 2005 through February 28, 2006.

The Township offices will be closed December 23, 26, 30, 2005, January 2, 16 and February 20, 2006.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

Treasurer Diane Pratt ... ext: 23
pratt@ada.mi.us

Deputy Treasure Gina ... ext: 26

PROTECT OUR FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS!

Remember Cold Weather Kills!

Proper Shelter is required by Kent County Law for all Dogs!

It is needed for all animals to survive the elements!

By Law both Food and Fresh Water are required daily

for Dogs !

But is also needed for all animals to survive!

If you do not have a shelter for your pet please contact the Humane Society of Kent County at 453-7757 to assist you.

Please remember there is a leash law in all of Kent County (including Ada Township), this means your dog must either be properly confined in a fenced area or on a leash when outside.

To keep your best friend out of harms way and to avoid a violation fine...

Leash 'em up!

It's the Law!



A Note from the Clerk

2005 has been another year of new additions and changes within the township offices, boards, commissions and committees. We welcome in-put from all our resident's and ask you to please share you thoughts and your ideas with us throughout the New Year!

If you have a new neighbor please contact the Township Clerks Office so we can say Hello! and send a "Welcome to Ada" information packet filled with historical information, business directory, township government duties and much more!

The Clerk office staff and I want to thank everyone for their kind comments and suggestions throughout the past year. Our Receptionist Jeannie will be retiring on December 30th,2005 ...we will miss her, but as almost 30 year residents of Ada Township both she and her husband Cliff will continue to be active participants as Election Inspectors and Historical Society volunteers!

We hope this holiday will bring your family a year of peace, prosperity and happiness. (616) 676-9191

Clerk...Deb Ensing Millhuff ... ext: 21
Deputy Clerk ...Deb Paulson ...ext: 20
Receptionist ... Jeannie ... ext: 29
Accounting ... Jean ... ext: 28
P/T Administrative Support Staff ...
Cassie ... ext: 34

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



Planning Commission to hold Master Plan Public Input Sessions

The Ada Township Planning Commission has scheduled two special work sessions for review, discussion and public input on a draft Future Vision Statement for the Township Master Plan update. The Vision Statement will establish general goals and policies for the character, growth and development of the community. The dates and times of these sessions are:

Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Both sessions will be held in the Assembly Room at the Township offices.

The draft Vision Statement is available for public review on the Township's web site – www.ada.mi.us.

Township residents are invited to participate in this process by providing feedback on the draft Vision Statement. What do you wish to see in the future, with regard to the future physical development of the community?

You can participate in the two Planning Commission work sessions, address written comments to the Planning Commission, or submit your comments using the online feedback form on the Township's web site, www.ada.mi.us.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

It's that time of the year again: snow, sleet and ice. Driving in the winter month's means traveling road conditions, which could lead to unforeseen dangers.



Preparing for winter driving:

- Before taking any vehicle on the road in the winter, have it tuned up.
- Test brakes, battery, check fluid levels, add anti-freeze accordingly.
- Have emergency equipment i.e. Sand/kitty litter, shovel, ice scraper, jumper cables, blankets, flashlight with working batteries.
- Cell phone for emergencies.
- Keep your fuel tank as full as possible. Condensation will be at a minimum and the added weight will help maximize traction and handling on slick roads.
- Any small problems you had with your car in good weather will be bigger problems in bad weather.

Safe winter driving tips:

- Warming car up; never warm vehicle up inside of garages or other closed areas, pull the vehicle out of garage and shut garage door to reduce carbon monoxide build up. Have extra set of keys and lock vehicle up, to reduce theft and accidents.
- Frost; Make sure to scrape all frost from windows prior to driving, it is very important that all windows be free of frost before the vehicle is driven.
- Snow; Remove all snow from windows, headlights, tail light, mirrors, and any auxiliary lighting, including license plate area. It is important that all these items are free of snow/ice so you can see and be seen.
- Dirt/Road Grime; Dirt and road grime will cover the lenses of your headlights and tail light, reducing the brightness of the lights. When traveling for long periods of time stop periodically to check these areas.
- Reduced Braking Capacity; Remember that you will need to slow down and begin breaking much sooner on snow or ice covered roads. Make sure to leave extra space between vehicles for stopping.
- Watch for slippery bridge decks; Even when the rest of the pavement is in good condition bridge decks will ice up sooner.
- 4x4 Vehicles; Do not get over confident in your 4x4 vehicle. Remember that your 4x4 vehicle may help you get going quicker but will not help you stop any faster. Your 4x4 vehicle can lose traction just as fast as 2-wheel vehicle.

Respect the winter weather:

- Road conditions; Know the current road conditions, watch local weather forecasts, listen to radio while traveling for updated accident and road conditions.
- Plan ahead; Leave extra time for traveling, a trip that might take you 30 minutes may take up to an hour in the winter.
- Speed; Its almost like everybody forgets how to drive when the snow/ice hits again. Remember to cut your speed in half to be safe.

These tips are designed to alert motorists of some of the most common safety concerns that police officers see on the road in the wintertime. If you have any questions or if any issue is not addressed here please feel free to contact me at any time.

Kent County Sheriff Department
Community Services
Deputy Todd Probst
(616) 632-6181 ext. 4182
todd.probst@kentcounty.org



The Ada Township Offices
will be closed for the
Holiday Season on
December 24th-27th
December 31st-January 3rd

*Happy
Holidays
from the
Ada
Township
Board and
Staff!*



Publication

Notes . . .

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Closed Holidays

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*Save Time! Save Gas!
Enjoy your Holiday Shopping!*



*Visit your local merchant's for
unique gifts and friendly service!*

