

THE ADAVIEW

"Truce is better than Friction"

Inside this Issue:

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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 contact Santa's Top Ada Elf Fireman Dave at 676-2376

Operation Santa Claus

You may drop off donations for Operation Santa Claus Monday -Friday 8AM-5PM until December 20th, 2006 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.

Encore! Encore!

Mr. Santa Claus has graciously agreed to take time out of his very busy holiday schedule to again honor his annual invitation to return as the Grand Marshal for the Ada Business Association Holiday Parade!

Mr. Claus is the most "seasoned" worldwide entrepreneur in toy manufacturing and set the standard for all toy manufacturers centuries ago.

Throughout the 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 our little family of elves decided many, many years ago to dedicate our life to

bringing a smile to everyone we meet and on one special day every year we would bring happiness to all good little boys and girls." Mr. Claus added "We hope through our example we can inspire others to work year around to bring peace and goodwill to everyone they meet as well".

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 Hoover, Rupke, Sampson, Terwilliger, VanBeek, Kohlbeck, Lowrie, Swan and other Ada Township families saying their secrets are his secrets.

Thank you Mr. Claus!



You Better Watch Out!

Ada Township will "Kick-Off" the Holidays with the annual Santa Claus Parade sponsored by the Ada Business Association.

Saturday December 2nd, 2006

10:30 AM 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 the Fire Station
(Compliments of the Ada Fire Association and Ada Township Board)



Santa Claus is coming to Town!
Saturday, December 2nd, 2006
11:00 AM Parade

The Ada Township Offices will be closed during the Holiday Season

December 26th through
January 2nd

The Office will re-open on
Tuesday January 3rd, 2007.

Happy Holidays

from the Ada Township Board
and Staff

Historical Society

Times are tough for many people now with the downsizing of corporations, layoffs and companies moving out of state. Tough times are not new; during the Great Depression of the 1930s. With all the difficulties of time most people managed to find happiness and an ability to cope with the situation. Many of us who were children at the time have vivid memories of the experience.

Christmas was an especially difficult time for parents trying to provide happy memories for their children. In the oral histories gather by the Ada Historical Society people recall what Christmas was like for their families.

For many families, the Christmas celebration was mainly at their church, with special events planned weeks in advance. There were pageants planned, verses recited, and almost always gifts for the children consisting mostly of hard candy and an orange or apple.

People often walked to church in the village, meeting other families along the way. Others bundled up in a horse-drawn sleigh for the journey with sometimes a hot stone wrapped up at their feet to chase away the chill.

At home, some children would put their shoes out for St. Nicholas to fill. Other homes would put out small mince pies on the children's chairs for a treat for Santa Claus.

Many homes did not have a Christmas tree or, if they did, it was a jack pine gathered out in the field and hauled to the home. Many homes did not have electricity so the trees were decorated with popcorn and paper chains. At school, we usually would have a program of songs and skits. The children would draw names and give a very modest gift to one another and our teachers often would have one or two small gifts tucked away for the children who couldn't afford to bring one to exchange.

In our home, there were four children and my parents were barely scrapping by. We were fortunate to have a grandmother, great aunt, and great grandfather who lived together in Grand Rapids and they provided most of our Christmas celebration.

Christmas Eve we hustled around to get our farm chores

done without any reminders. Then came the long wait for our grandmother to come for us because we had no car. It seemed like forever.

At my grandmother's home, we would first have supper. It always consisted of oyster stew for the grown-ups. That was a very special treat for my father. The children would have tomato soup, as we hadn't cultivated a taste for oysters.

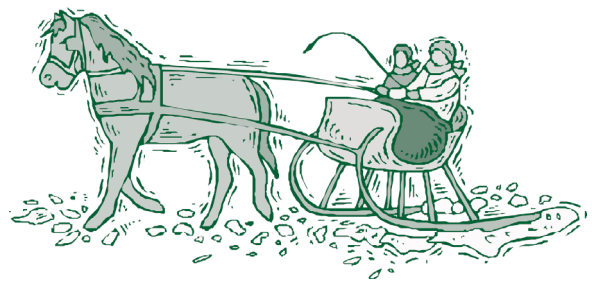
Then, we would go to the living room where there would be a tree with a few special gifts for each of us. This was the magical moment when somehow Santa had slipped in while we were at the table.

Later, we would return home and each hang a stocking along the stairway and be off to chilly beds in the unheated bedrooms.

In the morning, we would scramble to see what Santa might have left at home. There would be an orange in the very bottom of our socks and a few pieces of hard candy. Then, there would be a new pair of mittens knitted by my mother, usually made while we were in school or by the light of the kerosene lamps in the evening. On a few occasions, there would even be a sweater knitted for a much-loved doll. Mother knitted beautifully, even if she had to make do with yarn unraveled from an old sweater.

We were thrilled with what we received, even if it wasn't much by today's standards.

Our happiness was not measured by how much we received but rather by special moments shared with friend and family. I believe even in these times those things are still the most important.



Plans For New trails Underway

With voter approval of the non-motorized trail millage in November, the Township is moving forward with more detailed planning and engineering for the expanded trail network in the Township. The Township's Non-Motorized Trail Committee is creating an overall phasing plan for the trails, which will be constructed over the next 3-4 years. Initial activity will focus on completing surveys of existing conditions along the trail corridors, to allow more detailed evaluation of alternatives for placement of the trails, and to ensure that trail alignment best fits existing conditions, including

terrain, wetlands, trees and landscaping. The Township is also initiating the steps needed to sell bonds to finance trail construction, and is seeking additional grant funds for the trail network.

Neighborhood input meetings will be held as part of the detailed design process for each phase of the trail project. Additional information regarding the schedule and phasing of trail construction will be contained in future issues of the *Adaview*, and on the Township's web site – www.ada.mi.us.

News from the Parks Department

The parks are now in winter mode. This means that the water is shut off and the restrooms closed down. For those coming to Ada Park there is a portable toilet at the parking lot. The Grand River Drive entrance to Ada Park has been closed for the winter. We have to do this as we are not able to plow that parking lot.

Cross-country Ski @ Roselle Park

You will be able to cross-country ski the trails at Roselle Park this winter. The trails will be open, weather permitting from 9:00 a.m. until dusk. If you are a walker, please be considerate of the skiers and do not walk on the ski tracks. We are currently trying to schedule some beginner skiing lessons. Watch the local papers for dates & times for these.

Ice Skating @ Leonard Field

As soon as the temperature stays below freezing during the day, we will begin to make the ice rink at Leonard Field. As we don't have the luxury of having a refrigerated surface to make the ice on, it takes several days before the ice is thick enough to skate on. When the ice is not usable there will be chains across the entrance with signs asking you to stay off. Once the ice is usable it will be sprayed down with water in the AM to resurface the ice. Please stay off the ice until it has frozen over again. If you go onto the ice when it isn't completely frozen, your skates will carve grooves into the ice which are difficult for us to fix. Ah, if we just had a Zamboni! For those liking to skate under the lights, the rink will be open until 9:00 p.m.

New Bridges Constructed at Ada Park

If you haven't been to Ada Park in a few months, there are new bridges back in the lagoon. The bridges were constructed by Ben Thomet of Thomet Custom Construction. Ben donated the labor to build the three bridges. The bridges are now wider, allowing bikes and walkers to cross when people are fishing on the bridge. It will also allow us to place picnic tables on the islands next summer. Ben did a great job and we owe him a big THANK YOU! If you know him, tell him you appreciate his contribution.

Memorials Available at Ada Park

We often receive calls from residents wishing to memorialize a loved one at Ada Park. We currently have three options available for memorials:

Benches – Several years ago it was decided that we needed to change our memorial benches from those made of wood to a bench that would retain a nice appearance and require less maintenance. We chose a bench made out of recycled plastic. An example of the bench is located on the trail that connects the Grand River Drive parking lot and the driveway to Ada Moorings subdivision. We eventually hope to replace the current wooden memorial benches in the park with these types of benches. The fee for a memorial bench runs approximately \$550 (depending on freight charges).

Trees – Memorial trees can be planted within the Arboretum at Ada Park. Currently there are only a few spaces available, but once these are filled we are going to expand the Arboretum into the green area toward Grand River Drive. The price to have a memorial tree planted depends on the type and size of the tree. You can usually depend on spending at least \$250. We have a list of trees that we would like to have represented within the Arboretum, and a list of trees that we won't accept due to diseases or high maintenance. This list can be picked up at the Parks Department office.

Stone Pillars – The stone pillars that are part of the fence along the bike path on Buttrick Ave. can also be purchased as a memorial. Currently we have four pillars remaining at a cost of \$1,250 each. An engraved plaque is mounted on the front of the pillar.

If you are interested in making a memorial tribute to a friend or family member, contact Wendy Tatar at 676-0520.



Meeting Schedule Township Board

2nd and 4th Monday...

7:30 PM

December

Monday 11th

January 2007

Monday 8th

Monday 22nd

February 2007

Monday 12th

Monday 26th

March 2007

Monday 12th

Monday 26th

Planning Commission

3rd Thursday of each

Month....7:30 PM

Zoning Board of Appeals

1st Tuesday of each

Month.....4:30 PM

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

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) and your July 1 and December 1 tax bills.

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.

Property owners that no longer occupy the property in Ada Township will be required to file a Request to Rescind Principal Residence exemption within (90 days). These exemption applications are available on line at the Ada Township website www.ada.mi.us clicking on the red tool bar choose Assessing/Tax and search for your property by street name. Click the Go button and then select your address. In the middle of the screen you will find the item titled Request to Rescind.

The exemption will remain in effect for the current year of the rescission. The exemption will be removed for the following year. For example: The property owner has moved out on April 8, 2006. The exemption will remain in effect until December 31, 2006. The first year the property would be subject to the regular millage rate would be in 2007. However, if a new owner then purchases the property and takes occupancy of the home as a principal residence moving in before May 1, 2007 the exemption would then be in effect for the 2007 tax year.

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the form, please contact the Assessor's office at (616) 676-9191.

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 2006. Matthew Smith-CMAE II Township Appraiser will be performing a majority of these inspections.

Our offices will be performing field review inspections as a result of the 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.

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

Ada Township December Board of Review will be meeting on December 12, 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 also be available for the 2006 tax year for individuals that meet the income 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, 2006; upon the granting of the petition at the December Board of Review meeting on December 12, 2006, a revised tax bill will be sent to you.

Granting of petitions for years prior to 2006 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 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.

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 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 12, 2006
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 8, 2006 @ 5:00pm**. All requests should be submitted to the Assessor's office. The office number is (616)676-9191x 26 or 32.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVIEWS

Ada Township Assessor's office will be working on neighborhood reviews during the calendar year of 2006. This will involve an inspection of the property to verify the information contained on your property record card is accurate. You will receive an inspection letter in the mail indicating the dates that the Township Appraiser, Matthew Smith-CMAE III will be in your neighborhood.

The review of the information already contained on your record card does not result in an increase of your property's taxes. Information not already contained on your property card, will result in an increase of property taxes in 2007. Examples of property discovered during the inspections that were not already contained on property record cards: Air conditioning, wood decks, or Lower Level Basement finish.

We will be completing the neighborhood reviews by the end of December. Please note, if you have pulled a building permit for new construction in a prior year that was not yet completed or in the 2006 calendar year, will be inspected upon the completion of the permit issued by the building department or an inspection for

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK (continued)

partial construction for percentage complete will be reviewed during the year for new value added to the property for the 2007 tax year.

MARKET & TAX VALUATION

While Proposal A in 1994 put a cap on tax increased at the rate of inflation or 5% + new constructions or – losses of construction, the assessment value is still calculated @ 50% of the Market Value annually based on sales data over a specific date range.

Annually, Michigan properties Assessments are determined on December 31 of the prior calendar year (December 31, 2005). The 2006 Assessment was determined by sales that occurred between the dates of April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2005. We are in the process of completing the assessment determinations for 2007. The sales used to complete the increase/decreases of assessments will be determined from Arms Length transfers that occurred between April 1, 2004 and March 21, 2006.

Taxable value (product of Proposal A) is a calculation of the 2006 Taxable Value multiplied by the 2007 Rate of Inflation or Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 3.7%. Transfers of Ownership in the calendar year of 2006 will produce a 2007 Taxable Value that is equal to the 2007 State Equalized Value due to the "Uncapping" requirement of Proposal A.

Should the market study indicate that the neighborhood market values are showing a decline in the Market Value of the properties it would then reflect a decrease of the following years Assessed Value as the Taxable Value is calculated at the rate of inflation and cannot exceed the State Equalized Value (SEV).

The Taxable Value is only affected by the actual assessment when the Assessment (SEV) is lower than the prior year's Taxable Value. For example: 2006 Taxable Value of \$184,113 x 1.037 (CPI) = \$190,925 for 2007. An Assessment of \$150,000 would cause the Taxable Value to also be decreased to \$150,000.

Taxable Value from one property to another property will not be the same even in the event that the State Equalized Value (SEV) is the same, due to the calculation of Proposal A; moreover, all of the items listed above that impact the calculation.

Assessments are determined from the market study; moreover, the Taxable Value calculation is determined by the rate of inflation, as we have discussed above. The Assessment Change notices are then sent to the owner prior to the appeal session. The 2007 Assessment notices will be mailed out no later than 10 days before the adjournment of the March Board of Review to notify each property owner in the township of the Assessment Value and Taxable Value for the 2007 tax year. You can expect to receive your annual assessment notice around the same time each year.

Inspections completed in the 2006 calendar year will not effect the 2006 assessment. Assessments for 2006 were completed and based on tax day (December 31, 2005). The tax collection cycle for the 2006 tax year is July 1, 2006 for the Summer Millages and December 1, 2006 for the Winter Millages. Please check with the Treasurer's office regarding the due dates and those types of tax bill questions.

PERSONAL PROPERTY STATEMENTS

Please be aware that if you are conducting a business within the boundaries of Ada Township you will be receiving a 2007 Personal Property Statement for the reporting of your business personal prop-

erty assets. Examples of personal property assets are items such as a Personal Computer, fax machine, file cabinets, office chairs, desk, backhoe's, lifter, and items that are chattel in nature. The nature of your business or the formation of your business does not exclude you from the reporting requirement. Items that are fully depreciated by the IRS; however, are still on the premises (situs) and are used to conduct business are to be reported on your statement. These assets also include those that are on the premise that are not used daily; ie: back up personal computer or printer.

If you do not received a 2007 Statement; please be sure to contact our offices and request a copy be sent to your for your filing of these Personal Property Assets. Failure to file will not prevent the assessment of the assets when they are discovered; moreover, two prior years upon discovery as ordered by the State Tax Commission. If you do not receive a statement, you are still required to file your personal property assets with the local municipality that the assets are located within on December 31, 2006.

Types of business can be an Individual, Partnership, or a Corporation, including Limited Liability Companies (LLC). Please be sure that if you are a home based business and are doing business as a sole-proprietor that you fill out you principal residence address on the first page of the form, as you may be eligible for an exemption if you meet the requirement. Failure to complete your primary address as a sole-proprietor will make it difficult for the office to determine if you meet the requirement.

Forms will be sent out to your office address in December, as you are completing your year end inventories to make the process as easy as possible. Your form must be returned by the statutory date to be considered filed timely. Should you be unable to meet the statutory filing date, please be sure to contact the Assessor, as we may have additional information regarding the process for the March Board of Review session regarding the filing of your statement.

If you receive a statement it is believed that you are doing business in Ada Township and are responsible for filing a statement. If you are no longer doing business in Ada Township, you will need to still return the statement, do not ignore the requirement to report to our offices indicating that you are no longer doing business in Ada Township. You will want to be sure that the account will be closed and that you are not assessed an estimated value, due to a non-filed return.

Business that are still in operation on December 31, 2006 will be required to pay 2007 Personal Property tax assessments levied in July and December of 2007 calendar year, regardless of their move date occurring on or after January 1, 2007. You should notify our offices of that you have closed you business within 30 days in writing to the Ada Township Assessor's office to close the account and avoid additional year assessments.

Should you have a question or need help filing out the form; please be sure to contact our office with your questions at (616) 676-9191 extension 26 between 8:00am and 12:00pm & 1:00pm and 4:00pm on Monday – Friday. Please note, the Ada Township Office will be closed during the week of Christmas and will be re-opened on Wednesday, January 3, 2007.

All returns should be sent to : Ada Township Assessor's Office, PO Box 370, Ada, MI 49301



VISION FOR ADA VILLAGE EMERGES FROM DESIGN CHARRETTE

Thanks to the hands-on involvement of nearly 200 Ada residents, business owners and property owners, a future vision for the Ada Village area is emerging from the Ada Village Design Charrette.

The preliminary plan that was created through the Charrette process is now being refined and documented in a final report. The preliminary plan, principles that guided its development and a list of the specific action steps called for in the plan are posted on the Township's web site, at www.ada.mi.us.

The vision for the future of Ada Village features a new central public gathering space, street extensions, street narrowing and roundabouts to better distribute traffic and "calm" traffic speeds, riverfront trails and opportunities for new Village housing and an expanded business district.

The hard work of implementing the plan now begins. The Task Force that guided the Charrette process to this point will continue as a standing committee responsible for moving forward with implementing high-priority projects called for in the Village Plan.

Thanks are due to the many Township residents who volunteered to help conduct and participate in the Charrette process, including the citizen members of the Charrette Task Force:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Susan Burton | Georgia Gietzen |
| Nina Harrington | Jim Ippel |
| Bob Kullgren | Bob Lowry |
| Devin Norman | Tim Pratt |
| Kathy Sweedyk | |



A Note from the Clerk

This Holiday Season I want to thank you all and to let you know how lucky I am to serve a community with residents that care about where they live enough to sacrifice their time and energy to be involved and share their ideas and concerns.

Our friends and neighbors are why Ada is a great place to live!

I want to thank all of the Election Inspectors for their long hours and hard work. Without each of you we would all have a difficult time exercising our right and privilege to vote!

I want to thank all the residents who take the time to serve on committees, commissions, boards and local organizations. Thank you for sharing your ideas, feelings and knowledge to secure a wonderful future for our township.

I want to thank all the residents who take the time to contact us with their concerns and input on various projects and services... your input helps us to serve you better!

Please remember even if you are sharing what you think may be an opposing position of the majority, your ideas and concerns give the decision makers an alternative view to ponder.

Keep up the good work!!

Please contact the office either by phone, e-mail or snail mail and share your ideas, they are and always will be welcome!

On behalf of the Ada Township Board, the Ada Park Committee, The Village Design Charrette Committee and for all the residents of Ada.

Thank You!

Peace on Earth & Goodwill to each of you!

Clerk: Deb Ensing Millhuff
Clerk: 616-676-9191 ext: 21
millhuff@ada.mi.us
Deputy Deb: ext: 20
Receptionist Cassie: ext: 29
www.ada.mi.us

A Note from the Treasurer

Winter 2006 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 sign up for ACH electronic payments. Please contact the Treasurer's Office at (616) 676-9191 ext. 27 or 23 for details.

The last day to pay taxes is Wednesday, February 14, 2007 by 5:00 pm.

Postmarks are not accepted.

Please note the Township has a 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 2006 through February 28, 2007.

The Township offices will be closed December 25th, 2006 through January 2, 2007. Any tax bills mailed or left in the "Drop Box" before 8AM January 3, 2007 will be considered received and paid prior to December 31, 2006.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

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

Deputy Treasure Gina ... ext: 27



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
(616) 632-6436



Be Winter Wise

Keep a winter emergency Kit in your car!

- Blanket
- Flashlight
- Extra Pair of Boots, socks, sweater
- Keep your cell phone charged
- Bottled water with a few breakfast bars
- If stranded DO NOT leave your car running, turn it on periodically for heat only!

Be Prepared

Winter Weather Facts

Metereologist George Lessens

(December, January, February)

Averages for Winter Weather

Average Temp... 25.9
Warmest33.9 1931-32
Coldest ... 18.2 1903-1904
Last Year... 25.0"

Average precipitation in rain ...6.27"

Wettest ... 13.58" 1897-98
Driest ... 2.08"... 1986-87
Last Year.... 9.12"

Average Snow Fall ... 52.1"

Most Snow ... 85.1" 1951-52
Least Snow ... 13.4" 1943-44
Last Year.... 48.6"

Sun Average 28.1%

Sunniest 41.5% ... 1998-99
Cloudiest 14.6% ..1997-98
Last year 32.6%

**Publication
Notes . . .**

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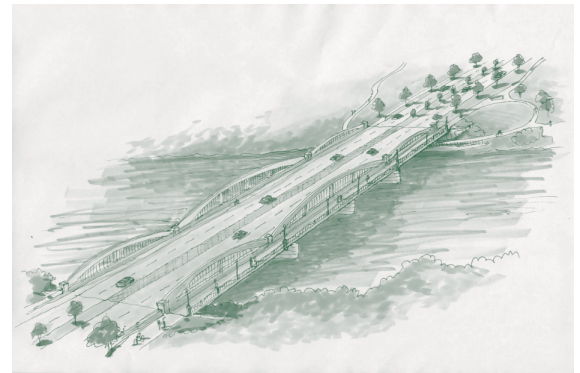
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VILLAGE CHARRETTE PRODUCES VISION FOR FUTURE M-21 BRIDGE

Among the many exciting and future-looking components of the Township’s vision for the Ada Village area is a concept for the design of the M-21 bridge over the Grand River, which is planned to be completely replaced by the MDOT in 4-5 years. The rendering shown here, produced as part of the Ada Village Design Charrette, shows key features that the Township believes must be included in the new bridge design:

- landscaping and decorative lighting to enhance the visual appeal of the bridge.
- a distinctive architectural design that provides views of the Grand River corridor from the bridge.
- most importantly, a dedicated pedestrian/bicycle path, protected from traffic on the bridge, and connected to the Township’s network of non-motorized trails.

The plan for the future of Ada Village recognizes that the Fulton St./M-21 bridge is one of the important “gateways” to the Village, and that its appearance and function should be consistent with our vision of the Village as a place of special importance in the community.



A Citizen’s Guide to Cold Weather Practices

Winter means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often make the job easier by applying deicers like salt, but besides sodium chloride, many deicers also contain chemicals like cyanide. When ice melts, the salts and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to nearby streams and lakes, endangering aquatic life. By following a few tips, you can reduce your salt use and prevent water pollution.

Try an alternative

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) was developed as a deicing alternative because it has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn’t cause corrosion. Although CMA is more expensive than rock salt, it is recommended for environmentally sensitive areas.

Reduce your salt use

By limiting the amount of salt you use on sidewalks and driveways, you can reduce the amount of polluted snow melt washing into waterways.

Use that shovel

The most important step in deicing is to physically remove as much ice as possible before applying salt. Use a shovel to break up the ice before you add another layer of salt to your sidewalk. Adding more salt without removing what has melted can result in over-application, meaning more salt and chemicals end up in nearby streams and lakes. You can also reduce salt use by limiting access to your home to one entrance. For every doorway that is not used, there will be less salt running into the catch basin in your street, and ultimately the Grand River.

