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ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

ADA TOWNSHIP ENHANCES MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR THE FUTURE *Appoints First Full-Time Township Manager*



Julius Suchy
Ada Township Manager

residents despite our ongoing public health challenges and constraints.

In an effort to maintain this trajectory, Ada has adopted a new model of governance to include a full-time township manager, naming Julius Suchy to this newly created position, effective mid-September. The manager will support the Township's ongoing growth and enhance the Township's capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver high-quality public services and facilities to Ada residents. This addition to the Township's leadership team will also provide the opportunity to

Ada Township has made significant investment in recent years in new public facilities and amenities amid private sector redevelopment that has brought new businesses and housing to the Ada Village area. With generous philanthropic support, the recent completion of a new riverfront park and planned opening in January 2021 of a new KDL branch library and community center building have energized the community and its

collaborate even more fully in the future with the county, state and neighboring communities to offer ongoing efficiency and savings as the community continues to invest and grow.

Suchy currently serves as Sparta Village Manager, a position he has held since 2014. With a strong focus on making Sparta a "business-friendly" community, he initiated a full slate of projects to support existing business and attract new businesses to the village. Suchy was named the Grand Rapids Business Journal 2016 "Newsmaker of the Year" in recognition of his work in economic development.

"Julius brings a wealth of experience in local government management and a solid track record of strategic growth and strong partner relationships," said George Haga, Ada Township Supervisor. "I have every confidence that Julius's drive and vision will make him an asset to Ada Township, aligning well with Ada's plans for the future."

Prior to his work in Sparta, Suchy held a number of local government positions, including Dundee Village Manager, Vassar City Manager and Big Rapids Zoning Administrator.

Suchy holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Grand Valley State University.

Van Andel Family Pavilion Opens at Legacy Park

An appreciative, socially-distanced crowd turned out on a beautiful July 29 afternoon for the dedication of the Van Andel Family Pavilion in Legacy Park. In their remarks, Dave and Carol Van Andel emphasized the important role that gathering places such as the Pavilion serve in bringing people together, building a sense of community and creating family memories. Later that evening, the Pavilion hosted its first music event, with a performance by the King Biscuit Trio. Thanks to Dave, Carol and their children for giving us this important place in the Village.



If you would prefer receiving the AdaView via email, please email the Clerk's office at: jsmith@adatownshipmi.com.



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE NEWS –

Greetings from your
Community Police Officer,

Over the past few months there has been a rise in vehicle thefts and theft from motor vehicles throughout Kent County. Some have reported their vehicles were taken overnight while parked in front of their homes, whereas others had it taken while they quickly ran into a business.

Car thieves appreciate all the help they can get, but there are effortless ways to prevent thefts from happening. Use the motto LOCK, TAKE, HIDE:

- Turn off the ignition and LOCK your doors.
- TAKE your keys. Don't leave keys or key fobs inside the vehicle whether or not you have a keypad.
- HIDE all valuables (in trunk, under seats, or remove completely from vehicle).

Although some subjects seek out vehicles or property to steal, others engage in the activity if an opportunity presents itself. Don't be a victim – remember to LOCK, TAKE and HIDE. For more helpful suggestions on how to deter criminals, please reach out and I'd be happy to share.



I hope you are enjoying your summer. My partners and I have been out on the trails riding bicycles. If you see us out, say hello! Be safe and I hope to see you around!

Sincerely,
Deputy Omar Dieppa
Omar.Dieppa@kentcountymi.gov | (616) 632-6435



REINVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

As we all watch and see the village area develop with new shops and bringing new business to town, have you noticed what some of our long-time businesses are doing? Take a look west of the village and see. Dan Vos Construction, located at 6160 Fulton, is nearing completion of their new 17,000 sq. ft. offices. Located on the same property, this will replace the current office which was built in 1976. In business since 1951 with a staff of 95 people the company is operated by third generation Vos family members. Thank you, Dan Vos Construction, for remaining part of the Ada community.



Dan Vos Construction – 6160 Fulton

Ada Valley Meats, located at 6210 Fulton, is a third generation family-owned business dating back to 1961. The current owners' grandfathers began Ada Valley while working at the Ada Beef Company which sat on the current location of Roselle Park. The company's over 650 products are distributed through the nation's largest food service providers to restaurants and health care facilities. They also offer custom products from prime rib to poultry and pork. So, the next time you make a meat purchase it might be from your town of Ada. The new construction consists of a new two-story office addition along with renovations to existing office space for a complex of over 22,000 sq. ft. Ada Valley began operations at this location in 1987 and employs over 30 people. Thank you, Ada Valley, for calling Ada Township home.



Ada Valley Meat Co. – 6210 Fulton

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

October is Fire Prevention month and your Ada Firefighters will be visiting all the elementary schools and preschools in the Township. Each grade from preschool to fourth grade will get a different fire prevention demonstration and message. Thanks to our many area sponsors we are also able to provide coloring books for each grade level and, of course, a fire helmet for the younger kids.

This month will also give you a chance to review your home fire safety plan in the

event of a fire. Here are just a few quick things to have in your home and tips for a safe plan.

Smoke detectors are life savers!

Replace your batteries twice a year. Have a detector on each floor and in every bedroom. The life of a detector is 10 years; replace it if it's older than 10.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors are equally important. CO is an odorless and deadly gas; make sure you have a working detector.

Fire extinguishers can control or extinguish a small fire before the fire department arrives, but always call 911 first!

Always have two ways out of every room. Have a preplanned meeting place for the family to meet in the event of a fire.

If you have any questions about fire safety, smoke or CO detectors or fire extinguishers, give us a call at (616) 676-2376.





ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS – PUBLIC SAFETY

24-hour Coverage

February marked our completion of the first year of 24-hour staffing at Fire Station One. This was also our busiest year ever, reaching 755 responses. Prior to then our staffing was a Monday-Friday 8-5 schedule. The new staffing gets an apparatus in route to an emergency 5 minutes quicker than in previous years. Beyond the reduced response times, the new schedule allows us to be more active in the community. We can now provide evening tours for Boy Scout & Girl Scout Troops, as well as assisting with events such as Tinsel Treats & Trollies and the Beers at the Bridge concert series. If you have a group that wishes to tour the station or learn more about fire safety or first aid, give us a call to set up a time.

Paid on Call Firefighters

Our department relies heavily on a dedicated, paid on call staff of firefighters, all of whom also have a full-time career. They respond to larger incidents, such as car accidents and structure fires, as well as fill evening shifts with the 24-hour firefighter. This allows us to have a minimum of two responders from 8am-11pm, which is sufficient for the majority of our responses. Over the past 10 months we have had four of our members complete their Fire Academy and Medical First Responder training. Congratulations and welcome to Rob McCarty, Matt Donald, Vince Guinsler and Ryan Green. This fall we will have two people attending the Fire Academy at the Plainfield FD: Rory Velting and Paul McDonagh.

2019 Incident Summary

Medical response	340
Vehicle accidents	82
Structure fire.....	6
Assist other department.....	82
Vehicle fire	3
Grass fire.....	17
False alarms.....	85
Service calls	18
Good intent call	24
CO alarm	30
Wires down	111

Response by Shift

First shift (M-F 8a-4p).....	279
Second shift (M-F 4p-12a)	268
Third shift (M-F 12a-8a).....	123
Fourth shift (S&S 8a-4p).....	85

FARMER'S MARKET

Late summer and early fall vegetables put on a show of deeply saturated colors – not like those flashy bright greens, reds, and yellows of spring and summer. Water-laden fruits and veg are replaced by dense root vegetables rich in minerals, vitamin C, and flavor – all immune system boosts for the days short on sunshine.

It's as if the sun is putting every bit of energy into making sure we remember those warm days as the weather transitions to cooler temperatures. There indeed were a lot of hot, sunny market days this year to remember. In fact, it's how we started out in June. It was all about high 80 and 90-degree days. Many folks took us up on the idea of getting to the market at 9am to grab fresh produce before the heat ramped up.

As the market winds down during the last weeks of the season, keep gathering those late-season fruits and produce. Look for pumpkins, butternut and winter squash. Their flesh is packed with beta-carotene and immune system-boosting vitamins A and C, just like those summer fruits. Scoop them out to create an antioxidant-rich puree and add it to risotto, pancakes, or even smoothies.

Bring home Brussels sprouts and dark leafy kale when spinach and arugula are fading away. Both can keep your digestion healthy in the winter months, and Brussels sprouts are actually high in protein!

Choose purple cabbages as a replacement for blueberries and red peppers. Like their summer precedents, purple cabbage is rich in antioxidants and can be added to cold salads or hot stir fry.

There's more: apples, green cabbage, cauliflower, and parsnips. Any of these added to a meal helps keep your body healthy through winter and spring.

Hopefully, our luck with the weather continues through the remainder of the season and the bounty we've seen all summer is equally rich this fall.

Speaking of luck, we are always thankful for ours. We have loyal shoppers who support the local growers and food crafters in the market. We also have a great group of volunteers here, year after year – many of them at least four years. They are the ones managing everything from pre-market setup to putting it all away, plus everything in-between. This year, they helped direct one-way traffic, made sure sanitizer stations were available and sold masks. Certainly not the usual list of responsibilities, but they made sure those extra things were done to keep everything running smoothly.

Please thank them when you see them. Without our volunteers' gift of help each week, we can't run the market as efficiently. Their smiling faces are in the photo below.

We look forward to seeing your faces smiling at the market, too, happy to be part of a community that values our local food producers. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to make this market happen each Tuesday during the season. Buying at the market improves your health, your community, and the environment.

Thank you for making it an essential part of your week.

See you soon!



From left to right are: Rick Buckner, Maeve Lyon, Chessie Mac Anaspie, Eliana McGlinchey, Katie Roberts, Lillian McGlinchey, and Barry Kiefer. Not shown is Caleb Fish.

ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Events for September, October & November 2020

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Ada Historical Society and Averill Historical Museum are open temporarily on Fridays from 1-4pm and also by appointment.

Address: 7144 Headley St., P.O. Box 741, Ada
Phone: (616) 676-9346
E-mail: adahistoricalociety@gmail.com
Web: www.adahistoricalociety.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Information on events is current at the time of printing and subject to change. Please check our website, email, or call regarding the status of planned events and safety guidelines.

September 10, October 8, November 12 – Monthly Board Meetings

3:00 p.m. Board meetings are open to the public. We welcome your involvement. Meetings are temporarily being held via Zoom. Please call (616) 676-9346 or email AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com for information on how to join remotely.

Thursday, August 27 – Garden Event: "Bees & Pollination"

7:00 p.m. on the museum grounds. ****Pre-registration is required; attendance numbers are limited.**** Join us for an un-bee-lievable lecture presentation and walk through the museum gardens.

Friday, November 27 – Annual Wreath Sale Fundraiser Begins

Beautiful fresh evergreen wreaths go on sale in the barn. Information and an order form will be available soon at the township hall, museum, or our website. Mark your calendar for the biggest annual fundraiser to support AHS activities. Look good and do good in one easy step!

UPCOMING EXHIBIT ON ADA'S FUR TRADING YEARS

We hope to welcome you this fall to explore the interesting people, cultures, and activities of Ada's early fur-trading years in a new permanent exhibit, *Ada Is...Rooted In Trade*. Be on the lookout for information soon on the exhibit opening date.

In 1969, a five-ton propeller from a generator at Ada's dam was lifted from the bottom of the river, painted, and put on display by the Ada Covered Bridge. It became known as "Ada's Dam Thing" and "Ada's Calder" in reference to Grand Rapids' new Calder statue installed that same year.



NEW POP-UP EXHIBIT: RIGHTFULLY HERS

The Ada Historical Society and Averill Museum present a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, *Rightfully Hers*, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. *Rightfully Hers* contains simple messages exploring the history of the ratification of the 19th amendment, women's voting rights before and after the 19th, and its impact today. This exhibit runs through December 2020.



VISITING THE MUSEUM

We have missed discussing all things Ada with our visitors and guests! The museum is open with limited hours, Fridays 1-4pm. As you plan a visit to Ada's museum, please know:

- Masks will be required
- Admission will be limited to 10 guests at a time
- Tours will be self-guided
- Distancing and hand-sanitizing will be recommended

Thank you for your understanding.

PUT YOUR NAME (KID'S, PETS, WHATEVER) IN ADA HISTORY

It's not too late to have the engraved text of your choosing on one of these brick pavers being installed at the Amy Van Andel Library and Community Center. Help write our next chapter!

We invite you to purchase a 4" x 8" brick or 8" x 8" paver to commemorate your charitable gift to this effort. Purchase as many bricks and pavers as you desire.



Visit OurNextChapterAda.org to make your donation now via PayPal. Sending your check directly to the Township will make your donation go further by saving the Township from having to pay the convenience fee for receiving online payments.

CENSUS – It's not too late to participate in Census2020, but please act quickly. You can answer via mail, online, etc. Visit 2020census.gov or michigan.gov for more information.

ELECTIONS

Looking back, the August primary is behind us. Ada saw a 40% turnout with a large part of that being absentee. The trails millage passed overwhelmingly. Looking forward, the presidential election, which happens once every four years, is typically the biggest election we hold. It is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3. While Michigan now allows voter registration and absentee ballot requests almost up to the end, please, please, please register and/or request your absentee ballot as soon as possible. We also need election workers. Please call the Clerk's Office at (616) 676-9191 if you are interested.



All township offices are on the ballot. Running unopposed are Ross Leisman, Supervisor; Kevin Moran, Treasurer; Jacqueline Smith, Clerk; and Dan Hurwitz, Catherine Jacobs, Bob Proos, Chris Winczewski, Trustees.

ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Contact Information:

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

E-mail: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Website: www.adatownshipmi.com

Office in Ada Park: 1180 Buttrick Ave., Ada, 49301

Mailing address: P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, Michigan 49301

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

ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & PRESERVES

Ada Township Park 1180 Buttrick Ave. 57 acres. Park office, Learning Center, shelters, arboretum, softball and soccer fields, tennis and pickleball courts, basketball court, playground, pond, trails, picnic areas.

Roselle Park 1010 Grand River Dr. NE. 247 acres. Restrooms, meeting room, picnic area, playground, paved and non-paved trails, observation decks, natural areas, Grand River shoreline.

Legacy Park 7450 River Street in Ada Village. Thornapple River view, playground, picnic plaza, paved trail, restrooms, Van Andel Family Pavilion.

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

Carl Creek Crossings Preserve 6230 Grand River Drive. 8 acres. Non-paved trails, creek access.

Grand River Natural Area Grand River Drive, enter via Ada Moorings. 110 acres. Trails, bike path, Grand River shoreline.



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

PARK RULES AND USE

COVID-19: Some facilities and amenities may be temporarily closed. Social Distancing is to be practiced.

Park Hours: Park grounds are open dawn to dusk.

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

Motorized recreation vehicles are not allowed.

Alcohol is not allowed in the parks or park facilities.

FACILITY RESERVATIONS AND RENTALS

We are still taking some reservations for facility use and rentals with new COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines in place. Contact the Park office for availability, restrictions, scheduling and fees.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The grounds to the parks, preserves and trails remain open for public use. We ask everyone to practice good social distancing and sanitation as long as necessary. While most outdoor amenities and the restrooms are open, indoor facilities remain limited for use. Check the website or with the Park office for updates.



UPDATES ON PARKS, PRESERVES & TRAILS

LEGACY PARK – In Memory of Helen and Rich DeVos

A dedication ceremony for the new "Van Andel Family Pavilion" was held on July 29 recognizing the Van Andel Family for their contribution to the community. Please contact the Park office for upcoming programs, park use policies and schedules, or if you are interested in using the Pavilion.

LEONARD FIELD PARK

We updated the park Master Plan this past spring and are now working on a plan to phase in improvements over the next few years. Contact the Park office for details or to help.

ROSELLE PARK

We recently made some improvements to the non-paved trails in the north section of the park. There are some grass areas still in recovery, but the trails are open again for use.

The room in the building is limited for use due to COVID-19. Please check with the Park office for updates.

ADA TOWNSHIP PARK

Restrooms, shelters and amenities are open with health advisories. Please maintain social distancing and personal sanitation practices.

Shelter and Gazebo reservation will stop at the end of October. Those facilities will re-open April 1, 2021.

BIKE PATHS AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

A new millage to support the bike paths/non-motorized trail system in the Township was voted on August 4th. We greatly appreciate the community support!

Please report any issues or concerns to the Park office: (616) 676-0520.

UPDATES ON PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

We continue to face cancellations and restrictions to most of our recreation and education programs due to COVID-19. Check the website or contact the Park office for details on upcoming activities, to schedule a program, or to be put on the mailing list.



TOWNSHIP

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

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Permit No. 657

CALENDAR (2020) FALL ISSUE

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 1 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 7 Labor Day - Township Office Closed**
- 8 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 10 Historical Society Board Meeting - 1P
- 10 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 4P
- 14 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 14 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 15 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 17 Planning Commission - 7P
- 22 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 28 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 29 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 15 Planning Commission Meeting - 7P
- 20 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 26 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 27 Farmers Market...LAST DAY - 9A-2P
- 31 Clerks Office Open - 8A-4P**
For voter registration and absentee ballots only.

OCTOBER

- 6 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 6 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 8 Historical Society Board Meeting - 1P
- 8 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 4P
- 12 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 12 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 13 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 3 General Election - Polls Open - 7A-8P**
- 9 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 9 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 10 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 11 Veterans Day - Township Office Closed**
- 12 Historical Society Board Meeting - 1P
- 12 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 4P
- 19 Planning Commission - 7P
- 23 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 26 Thanksgiving Day - Township Office Closed**
- 27 Day after Thanksgiving - Township Office Closed**
- 27 AHS Wreath Sale Fundraiser begins

PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES. www.adatownshipmi.com
MANY OF THESE MAY BE "VIRTUAL" MEETINGS.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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P.O. Box 370
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TELEPHONE: (616) 676-9191

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