

THE ADAVIEW

A newsletter published by Ada Township

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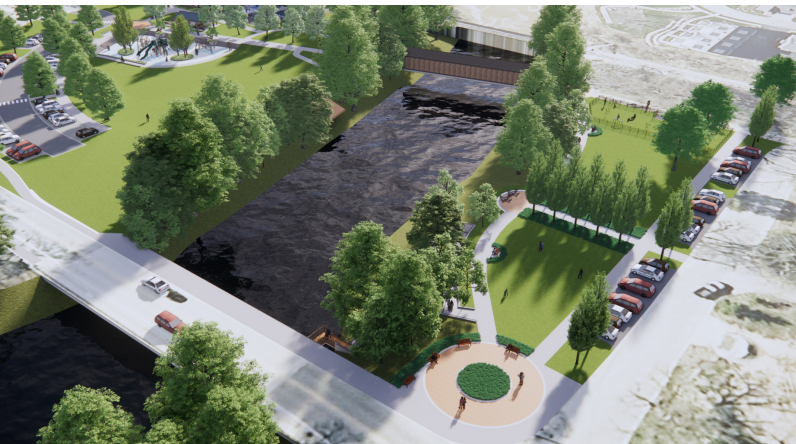
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RIVERS, BRIDGES AND CONNECTING COMMUNITY

By Supervisor Ross Leisman

The confluence of the Grand and Thornapple Rivers has long been a special place. For hundreds of years we, the people of Ada, have enjoyed these rivers and the beautiful land through which they run. As we have been reporting to you regularly in this newsletter, Ada Township is continuing its extensive efforts to make these river areas even more accessible to you.

Ada Township recently completed miles of pedestrian and bicycle paths on both sides of the Grand River in the central and north parts of the Township. Plans are also underway, in partnership with other governmental entities, to begin construction of the pedestrian bridge connecting Roselle Park and Chief Hazy Cloud Park in 2026, and to begin construction of the pedestrian crossing of the Grand River at Knapp Street in 2025. At the same time, we have been reporting to you the Township's securing of almost all of the land on both sides of the Thornapple River from the historic Ada Covered Bridge to the confluence of the



rivers. What we are so pleased to announce to you now, is that the funding



Rendering

and planning to make major improvements to that downtown river corridor is a reality, a reality thanks in large part to a public/private partnership known as the "Connecting Community" campaign.

This newsletter contains visual concept plans of what the improved riverfront areas will become. It includes a cool pedestrian bridge running from Legacy Park across the Thornapple River to a new 14-acre park preserve with trails on the east side of the river connecting to the Grand River natural Area Preserve. That park with trails will run all the way from Thornapple River Drive to where the rivers meet. The campaign also includes millions of dollars of investment and improvements on both sides of the river between the historic Ada Covered Bridge and that new pedestrian bridge from Legacy Park. Those improvements include, as you can see in the concept plans, family gathering spaces, picnic areas, green spaces, river overlooks, walking paths, a dog park, pickleball courts, a splash pad, new bathrooms, veteran's memorial, additional parking and even a kayak launch.



Above, high level concept plans provided by the Connecting Community Campaign

This beautiful, large, useable greenspace will compliment the new shops, restaurants, and businesses in the same area.

Mark Twain, who grew up on the Mississippi River, once wrote "The river has great wisdom and whispers its secrets to the hearts of all people." Spending time by our rivers is good for us. And it is our hope that these new public riverfront facilities, rooted in our history, will be a place to grow families, connect with friends, and spend time in personal reflection for generations to come.

"IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THESE NEW PUBLIC RIVERFRONT FACILITIES, ROOTED IN OUR HISTORY, WILL BE A PLACE TO GROW FAMILIES, CONNECT WITH FRIENDS, AND SPEND TIME IN PERSONAL REFLECTION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME."

Thank you to the many folks who have been, and who will be, involved in this effort to make our home a better place.

If you are interested in contributing or learning more about the Connecting Community Campaign, visit <https://www.connectingcommunitycampaign.com/>.

TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

Township Hall Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
616.676.9191

Supervisor
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dmurray@adatownshipmi.com
Sheriff/Non-Emergency Dispatch
632-6357

Community Policing Officers
Omar Dieppa: 632-6435
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov
Kate Chase: 430-7811
kate.chase@kentcountymi.gov

TREASURER DEPARTMENT

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

As another tax season commences July 1, 2024 with the mailing of your summer tax bill, one of the most frequent questions we receive is what do we do with your tax dollars?

Contrary to perception, Ada Township does not maintain all of those dollars. In fact, it is quite the opposite. As the chart below denotes, the majority of the tax dollars we collected in 2023 goes towards K-12 education. We collect those education dollars on behalf of the State of Michigan and the Forest Hills, Lowell, Kent Intermediate, and Northview School Districts. In this instance, for every \$100 we collect of your taxes, \$62.70 goes to those aforementioned entities dependent on the school district you live in.

Ada Township in totality collects \$12.88 for every \$100 you pay in taxes. You can see in the chart how those tax dollars get disbursed further. I hope this sheds some additional light on your tax dollars at work.



Kevin Moran
Treasurer



Jackie Smith
Clerk

Election season is upon us. Thank you all so much to the voters who came out for our first Early Voting Period in February! We have several ways our residents can vote. You can vote by mail, early in person, or in person ON election day. We know our residents are BUSY, and we want you all to have the opportunity to vote. All of our Township Offices are up for election this calendar year, so be sure to get out and vote in August and again in November for your local representatives. Here are some important dates to know:

- July 22: Last day to register to vote online/by mail for the August 6 Election
- July 27 thru August 4: Early Voting 8am-5pm at Township Hall (All Precincts!)
- August 2: Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail
- August 6: Primary Election Day! Polls are open 7am-8pm



As always, we welcome your comments regarding this article or anything Treasury related. You can reach out to me at 616-676-9191 ext. 7323 My Deputy Treasurer, Gina Olszewski can be reached at 616-676-9191 ext. 7327.

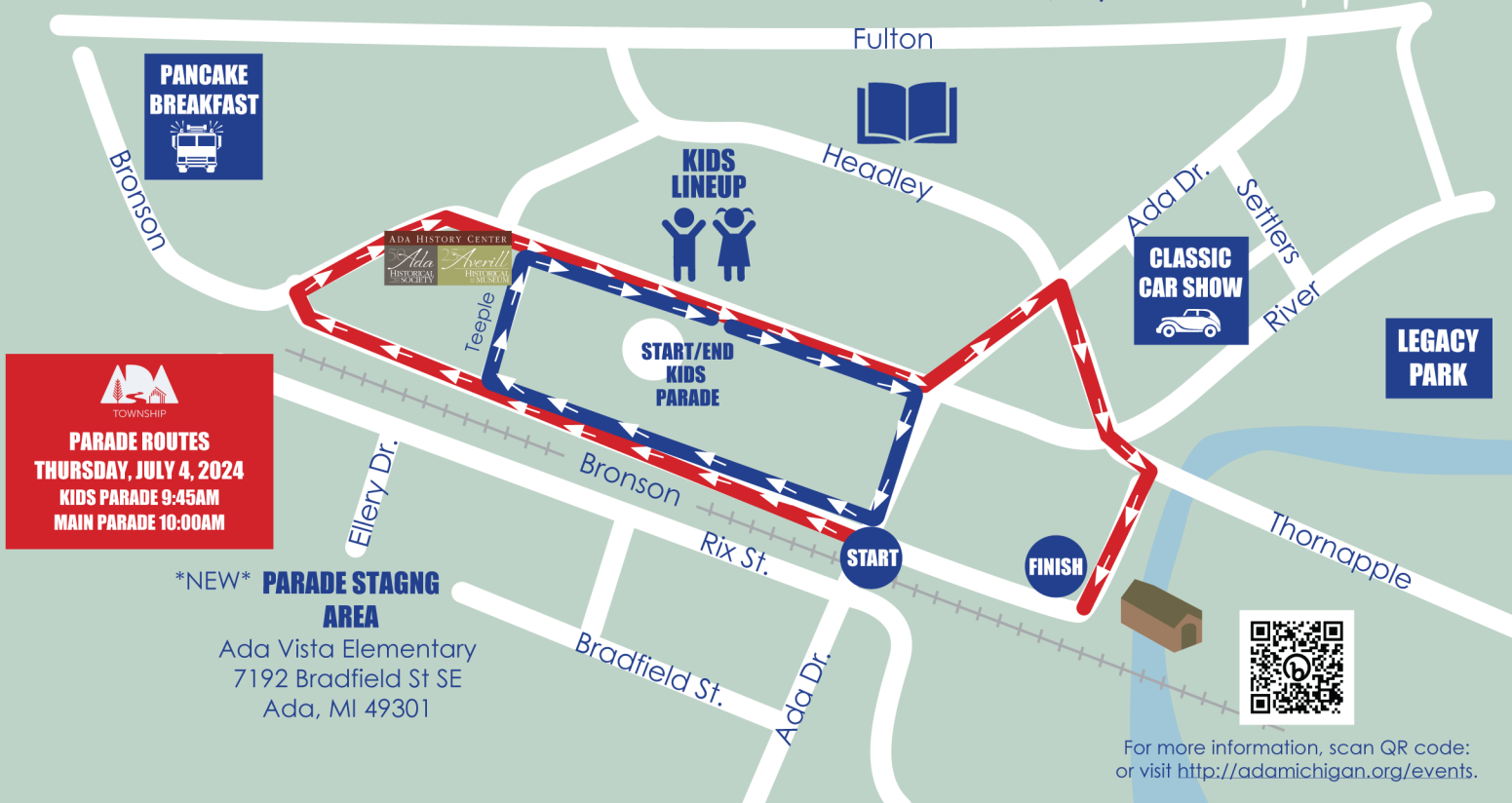
The Ada Township Board has also revised several of our polling locations and precincts. We now have 6 precincts, down from 8, and some voting locations have changed. You should have received a new voter identification card in the mail. See below for your new polling locations:

- Precincts 1 and 2- Keystone Community Church, 655 Spaulding Ave SE
- Precincts 3 and 6- Ada Congregational Church, 6330 Ada Drive SE
- Precincts 4 and 5- Roselle Park, 1010 Grand River Drive NE

ADA TOWNSHIP'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION



FIREWORKS DISPLAY



PARADE ROUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024
 KIDS PARADE 9:45AM
 MAIN PARADE 10:00AM

***NEW* PARADE STAGN AREA**
 Ada Vista Elementary
 7192 Bradfield St SE
 Ada, MI 49301

For more information, scan QR code:
 or visit <http://adamichigan.org/events>.

ACTIVITIES: Thursday, July 4

PANCAKE BREAKFAST *Fire Station #1 is located at the corner of Fulton & Bronson
7-9:30AM • Stop by Fire Station #1 prior to the July 4th parade to enjoy pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee.

PARADE See Map for Route
9:45/10-11AM *Parade line-ups start @ 9:00AM - Kid's Parade to start at 9:45AM

- Kids Parade Lineup - The Community Church parking lot at northwest entrance along Thornapple River Dr. (enter parking lot from Headley St.)
- Regular Parade Lineup - Ada Vista Elementary: 7192 Bradfield St SE. Participants enter via Rix St and Ellery Dr. Note: Bradfield will be closed to traffic.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW & KIDS ACTIVITIES AT LEGACY PARK
11AM-2:30PM • Cars line-up along River St. from Thornapple River Dr. to the east (enter via Fulton St. near the Ada Fresh Market)

MUSIC AT LEGACY PARK
6:30-9:30PM

- Hark Up and Voices of Freedom

FIREWORKS (30 minute show)
9:45/10PM

- Shortly after band finishes at dark
- Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the show!

Join our neighbors to the south for some additional activities!

Cascade Township's celebration will feature games, carnival rides, parades, food trucks, a splash zone and more. Throughout the event, Friends of the Cascade Library will host its book sale outside at the Cascade Branch of the KDL (2870 Jacksmith Ave SE). The sale will include thousands of books.

- **Giant Book Sale** @ the Library 8:30AM-3PM
- **Bike Parade** @ 9 a.m
 Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (6655 Cascade Road SE).
Community Parade (directly follows)
 Route starts at Cascade Road & Burton Street and ends at 28th Street & Thornhills Avenue.
- **Games, rides & music by The Soul Syndicate** @ the all-new Friendship Park & surrounding properties 10:30PM-2:00PM

COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN NOW REGISTER FOR THE ADA TOWNSHIP 4TH OF JULY PARADE ONLINE!
 Registration is encouraged prior to event day.
 Visit <https://bit.ly/adajuly4parade2024> to register.

Get Ready for... SUMMER

Check out the fun events happening in Ada Township this summer!



June

06.01 Rides on River Street

12p.m. - 3p.m.
Experience River Street lined with exotic, European & custom show cars!

06.04-10.29 Ada Farmers Market Tuesdays

9a.m. - 2p.m.
The Community Church (7239 Thornapple River Dr SE)

06.08-06.09 Grand Rapids Triathlon

Sat: 7a.m. - 10:30a.m.
Sun: 7a.m. - 3:30p.m.
Ada Park (116 Buttrick Ave SE)

06.12-08.21 Music on the Lawn Concert Series

Wednesdays
7p.m. - 9p.m.
Legacy Park (7430 River St SE)

06.12 Progressive Tastings Ada: The History Hop

4p.m. - 6:30p.m.
Join us for a delightful evening of food and fun in Downtown Ada!

06.21 Beers at the Bridge: BareNaked 90's

6p.m. - 9p.m.
Legacy Park (7430 River St SE)

06.27 Progressive Tastings Ada: The Art Mixer

4p.m. - 6:30p.m.
Join us for a delightful evening of food and fun in Downtown Ada!

July

07.04 4th of July Celebration

Enjoy the annual parade, classic car show, music at Legacy Park, and fireworks!

07.13 Cars and Coffee

10a.m. - 1p.m.
Join us for the largest exotic car event in West Michigan!

07.19 Beers at the Bridge: The Soul Syndicate

6p.m. - 9p.m.
Legacy Park (7430 River St SE)

August

08.10 Cars and Coffee

10a.m. - 1p.m.
Join us for the largest exotic car event in West Michigan!

08.16 Beers at the Bridge: Kerri Lynch

6p.m. - 9p.m.
Legacy Park (7430 River St SE)

08.23-08.24 Ada Village Tent Sale

10a.m. - 6p.m.
Ada Village Shop the annual Ada Village Tent Sale!

Scan the QR code or visit <http://adamichigan.org/events> to view detailed event information.





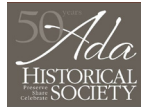
VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Join the excitement of Ada's summer events! Volunteers are the backbone of our community, and we appreciate those who return year after year. Interested in assisting behind the scenes at Beers at the Bridge? Or perhaps spending an afternoon in our beautiful parks? Maybe you'd like to collaborate with the fantastic bands at Legacy Park? If any of these opportunities appeal to you, reach out to the Downtown Development Authority, the Parks and Recreation Department, or visit our website for sign-up details!

2024 MUSIC ON THE LAWN *Summer Concert Series*



**LEGACY PARK
7430 RIVER ST
7-9 PM**



JUNE

- 12th - Thornapple River Band (Pop Rock)
- 19th - Prior Noon (Country)
- 26th - Rochelle & the Spoilers (Rockin Blues)

JULY

- 10th - The Frog King (Neil Diamond Tribute)
- 17th - Yacht Rocket (Yacht Rock)
- 24th - Right Side Up (Classic Rock)
- 31st - Assamu Johnson & the Association of Blues (Blues)

AUGUST

- 7th - Pretzel Logic (Classic Rock)
- 14th - Clif Metcalf Jazz (Jazz)
- 21st - Lighting Matches (Alternative Rock)



BEERS AT THE BRIDGE

JOIN US FOR A FUN COMMUNITY TRADITION!

BEERS AT THE BRIDGE IS PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AIC INSURANCE SERVICES



AIC Insurance Services
Building Relationships.
Providing Peace Of Mind.

LEGACY PARK, 7430 RIVER ST - 6-9 PM

JUNE 21 - BARENAKED 90'S

JULY 19 - THE SOUL SYNDICATE

AUGUST 16 - KARI LYNCH



ada
farmers
market

When: Open Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 2p.m.

Where: The Community Church
(7239 Thornapple River Dr SE)

Website:
www.adafarmersmarket.com

PLANNING AND ZONING

Zoning Ordinance Update – Public Input

Over the next year or more, the Planning Department expects to update the Ada Township Zoning Ordinance, and welcomes any input that interested parties may wish to provide. The primary goals of this update are:

- Reorganize the Ordinance for simplification and transparency for the public and developers. This will include the use of tables, charts, and illustrations to effectively illustrate zoning requirements.
- Implement goals of the 2023 Master Plan, including consideration of a variety of residential options.
- Enact minor revisions to reflect updated development standards, legal rulings (regarding issues such as sign regulations), and to minimize repetition and inconsistencies.

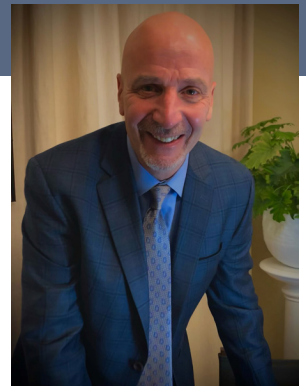
This effort will be led by Township Staff and a Zoning Ordinance Review Committee consisting of members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Downtown Ada “Ada Village” Parking Study

A new parking study is tentatively planned to take place during the summer or fall of 2024. The study’s timeframe will be determined based on the completion of the current large-scale projects in the area, including the Ada Hotel and the adjacent commercial-office building at 7399 River Street.

This project, which will be a joint effort of the Township and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), will obtain accurate parking counts and develop recommendations for future parking programming in the Downtown “Village” area. This new study will replace a previous study conducted in 2017, prior to the major redevelopment efforts that have taken place in the area.

For any questions concerning the planned parking study, please contact our office or the DDA.



John Said
Planning Director

ASSESSING UPDATE

It is that time of year again for our office to conduct our annual residential reviews. Homeowners in the selected residential neighborhood review area will receive a letter and questionnaire from our office in the mail. We encourage homeowners to complete and return the questionnaire to help us make sure we have current and accurate information.

Below is a list of the neighborhoods that we will be reviewing this year:

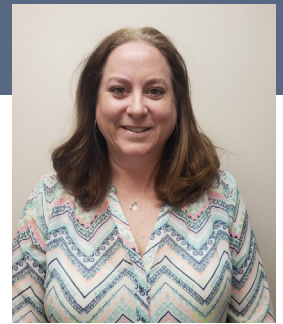
- 4074 – Lowell SE
- 4120 – FH Central
- 4125 – Ada Woods
- 4150 – Clements Mill
- 4350 – Villas of Ada Condo
- 4410 – River

Conducting a review of Township properties is not only a requirement of the State of Michigan

but also a way for us to make sure our records are accurate for fair and equitable assessments.

Our residential appraisers will review the information, along with current property record card and recent aerial photography, and prepare the record card for next year’s market study and valuation. Part of this review process is to visit each property and take an exterior picture of the outside of the front of the home. Our vehicles are marked with the Ada Township logo and our assessing staff should always carry a photo ID and present when requested.

For more information, please call the Assessing Office at 616-676-9191 ext. 7341 or visit Township Hall at 7330 Thornapple River Dr.



Stephanie Boerman
Assessor

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The following is a listing of street maintenance projects planned for 2024.

The Kent County Road Commission will be completing a Millings (Recycled Asphalt Pavement) Application to the following gravel roads. This application will be used to strengthen the base of the gravel roads similar to the work that was completed on 2 Mile Road last year. Work is expected to take place during the spring and summer of 2024.

- Conservation Street – Honey Creek Ave. to the west until it reaches the paved portion
- Cramton Avenue – Conservation St. to 2 Mile Rd.
- Leonard Street – Cramton Ave. to Honey Creek Ave.



The Kent County Road Commission will be completing 13.35 miles of chip seal on the following streets. Work is expected to take place during the Spring and Summer of 2024.

- Ada Drive – Forest Hills Avenue to Rix Dr.
- Spaulding Ave. – Cascade Road to Ada Dr.
- Thornapple River Dr. – River Street to Cascade Rd.
- Vergennes St. – Pettis Ave. to Boynton Ave.
- Honey Creek Ave. – 4 Mile Rd. to Conservation St.
- Alta Dale Ave. – Grand River Dr. to Fulton St.

The Kent County Road Commission will be completing 1.84 miles of seal coat on the following streets. Work is expected to take place during the spring and summer of 2024.

- Fox Hollow Ave. – Hall St. to Ada Dr.
- Michigan St. – Steketee Ave. to Grand River Dr.

Any questions regarding these street maintenance projects can be referred to the Kent County Road Commission at: (616) 242-6900.

LEADING THE WAY: 2024 GRAND MARSHAL

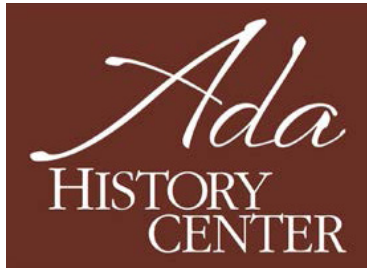
Our grand marshal for this year's July 4th parade is Dr. Thomas Reyburn who began his practice, Ada Vision, in 1977. His original location was in the Thornapple Village Shopping Center. In 2017 he relocated to 596 Ada Drive in the Historic District of Ada in the former Franciscan Sisters Bakery. Ada Vision is the longest original owner operated business in Ada Township. In addition to operating Ada Vision, Dr. Reyburn began a no-cost eye care clinic at the Mel Trotter Ministries in Grand Rapids in 2004 where he still volunteers.



He also spends two days per week giving free eye exams at the Muskegon County Correction Facilities. He met the love of his life Sherry in college in Memphis TN, they were married 40 years before her passing in 2016. They have one daughter Dr. Katherine Reyburn who practices Emergency Medicine in Michigan. Thank you Dr.

Reyburn for selecting Ada in 1977 to start your business, and thank you for your years of dedication to the Ada and the surrounding community!

ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



www.AdaHistoryCenter.org

616.676.9346

7144 Headley St., PO Box 741

AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

For up-to-date hours, programming and more, check out our website www.AdaHistoryCenter.com

Part of the Ada History Center are the beautiful park-like gardens and grounds. We welcome you to come explore, particularly during the beautiful summer months. The property features several types of gardens including a farm garden, woodland garden, and dahlia garden. These are maintained by a talented and dedicated group of volunteer Master Gardeners. Also, you'll find a memorial to this area's first settler Rix Robinson, a barn quilt block patterned after a quilt in the museum's historic collections, various farm-themed sculptures and yard art. Even the privy is historic!

The biggest feature however is the 1870s barn. A familiar landmark, it stands out, in part, because we don't often find barns in the middle of towns these days. The barn pre-dates most other buildings in the village.

From the riverside farms of this area's Indigenous peoples to the settlement that began in the 1830s, Ada was always a farming community. The History Center barn, originally located next to today's The Community Church, was moved down the street in 1999, repurposed as an ambassador to share Ada's agrarian past.

Inside the barn, which is used for events and fundraisers, are exhibits of farming equipment, a sleigh, a buggy, carpentry and cobbler's tools, and more.

Ada History Center is proud to share the lovely green space and invites you to wander and enjoy.



NEW TEMPORARY EXHIBIT



Ada was home to an internationally syndicated comic strip artist. Find out more about the colorful life and diverse talents of illustrator, painter, and cartoonist Kreigh Collins in the museum's new exhibit for 2024.

Upcoming Events

- Music on the Lawn - 7pm most Wednesdays at Legacy Park. Don't miss a beat of these concerts co-hosted by Ada Historical Society and Ada Township Parks & Rec.
- Thursday, August 1 - 6pm at Ada History Center. Speaker Amy Heilman discusses the importance of native plants in the home garden with recommendations of specific species, plant sources, planning and design considerations, and growing tips.
- Thursdays, June 13, July 11, & August 8 - Ada Historical Society Board Meetings 3:00pm at the Ada History Center. Meetings are open to the public. Join us to find out how we're making history!

Centennial Properties Program

The Centennial Properties program continues to recognize homes and commercial buildings 100 years of age and older. We honor the importance of historic properties and the value they add to our community today.



1970 Forest Hills cheerleaders watch the score keep growing

Rangers and Huskies and Hawks, oh my! When the Forest Hills school district consolidated in 1956, a goal was to have a four-year high school for area students. The old Ada School went only through 10th grade. In 1958, the new school opened, simply named Forest Hills High School. In 1971, the "Central" was added because of the construction of Forest Hills Northern High School. Another 33 years of growth led to the addition of Forest Hills Eastern High School in 2004.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ART IN ADA?

Dear Community Members of Ada,

After a few dormant seasons, the Ada Arts Council has reinstated its non-profit status and reaffirmed its commitment to serve the community. The council is undergoing a transformation, inspired to bring a sense of artful purpose to the township around shared visions of proactive community engagement. Through an ambitious outreach campaign, the council strives to prioritize community-driven initiatives and projects that directly address the pressing needs and aspirations of its residents. By aligning their actions with the community's interests and actively involving residents in decision-making processes, the council aims to be a trusted resource for community-driven public placemaking and engagement with the Arts.

To achieve our goals effectively, we've partnered with Lions & Rabbits Center for the Arts (LRCFA). LRCFA brings valuable experience in collaborating with local governments, civic groups, and community leaders. You may have seen their previous collaboration with the completion of the railroad murals and Arts in Ada artist market.

Together, we're crafting a strategic plan for arts and culture in our community. This plan will define our mission and guide our next steps, ensuring that art and culture reflect the desires and needs of our community.

We invite all community members to participate in our ongoing surveys and encourage interested stakeholders to join us in shaping the future of the arts in Ada. Your input is vital as we work together to create a vibrant arts scene that benefits everyone.

To participate in the survey or join the planning process, please scan the QR code or email jarran@lionsandrabbits.com.

Thank you for your support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Ada Arts Council



FRIENDS OF THE AMY VAN ANDEL LIBRARY



DONATE, JOIN, VOLUNTEER

Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library supports the library through volunteerism and fundraising, enhancing the relationship between the library and the community. The Library Friends welcome your donations of used books in good, clean condition (no mildewed, stained or damaged books, please). Income from used book sales is used to fund enhancements to library facilities and programs. Better yet, become a Friends member. Fill out a membership form at the library or join from our website - adalibraryfriends.com/join-donate. Also, consider volunteering your skills and time at our events or at the library in support of our used book sorting, boxing and shelving process.

Contact us at adalibraryfriends@gmail.com and follow us on social media (@adalibraryfriends).

Gallery in the Stacks Art Exhibitions

The work of 5 local artists is on display at the library through the end of June. Titled "Friday Morning Brushwork," the exhibit features the work of Bob Buchanan, Beverly Kerwin, Jim Bianculli and Shanna Handelsman, as well as their art instructor Scott Kenyon. In early July, a new exhibit of work by Ruth VanderMeulen will be on display in the gallery.

The Library Friends recently received one of two annual Merit Awards issued by the Friends of Michigan Libraries organization, as an innovative library program and use of library space.

Meet Us at the Market

The Library Friends will have a booth at the Ada Farmers Market throughout the months of June and July. We will have a selection of children's books with special sale pricing.

New Tote Bags

Our new inventory of tote bags now includes two colors – the original natural canvas and a new navy blue. Purchase for \$15 at the patron service desk at the library.



It's an exciting time in Parks & Recreation as the summer months approach. Warm weather, plenty of sunshine, and longer days mean our parks will fill up with lots of community activities, special events, and programs. Interested in getting more detailed information? Check out our Recreation Connection Newsletter which provides you with a closer look at what we've got going on related to programs, special events, facility rental opportunities, volunteer opportunities and much more! Contact us at adaparks@adatownshipmi.com to get your copy, or grab one in person at any of our Township buildings, including the Amy Van Andel Library.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SOFTBALL LEAGUES

The Summer softball season is officially underway at both Ada & Leonard Field Park. The men's league and coed leagues run on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings through mid-August. If you're looking to sign up a team for our fall league keep an eye out on our social media platforms for registration to open in July. Team fees for the fall league are \$375.



BIKE DECORATING DAY

Children ages 5+ are invited to join us at Ada Park on Wednesday, July 3rd from 10a-12p to decorate their bike for this year's 4th of July Bike Parade. Decoration packs are available for \$10/child.

TENNIS CLINICS

Want to sharpen your tennis skills and learn the game? Learn from the pros from Engage Sport Services! All skill levels are welcome. 5-week Thursday & Saturday options available for ages 5-Adult. For more info on dates & registration visit <https://bit.ly/adaparksrec>.

Location: Ada Park Fee: \$125/participant

PICKLEBALL CLINICS

Interested in learning the fastest growing sport in the US? Get instruction from the pros from Engage Sport Services! All skill levels are welcome. 5-week Tuesday evening option available for both youth and adults. For more info on dates & registration visit <https://bit.ly/adaparksrec>.

Location: Ada Park Fee: \$75/participant

ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE - *NEW*

We're offering our first ever 6v6 Coed Soccer League! Join us for the inaugural season at Ada Park. Games will be held on Tuesday evenings and teams will be guaranteed seven games. Team fee is \$475. For more info on league specifics or to register, please contact Recreation Coordinator Ethan Engel (eengel@adatownshipmi.com / 616.920.7852)

COMMUNITY FITNESS CLASS - *NEW*

Come work up a sweat with our FREE Paradigm in the Park fitness classes. Classes will be led by a certified instructor and held at Ada Park on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 9am beginning June 4th. These workouts will be tailored to promote overall strength fitness through functional movements and training and can be scaled for all ability levels.



PARKS & RECREATION

CONNECT WITH US!

Phone: 616.676.0520

Email: adaparks@adatownshipmi.com

Rentals: <https://bit.ly/adaparksrec>

Offices: 1180 Buttrick Ave SE, Ada, MI, 49301

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

On Thursday, February 8th the Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation (PRLP) Advisory Board had the privilege of honoring Elise Roe for her unwavering dedication, support, and selfless commitment to our community. Elise served on the Advisory Board for over 25 years and played an important role in the development of our parks system, as well as providing countless hours of physical labor through volunteer and stewardship efforts. While Elise's time on the PRLP Advisory Board has come to an end, we are sincerely grateful for the impact she has had on our community.





GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON 2024

JUNE 8-9

PRESENTED BY  **Huntington**

On Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9, we will again host the Grand Rapids Triathlon in Ada. The main activities will be near the intersection of Buttrick and Thornapple River Drive and at Ada Park. Road closures will occur on both days. Both Thornapple River Dr and Buttrick Ave (between Thornapple & Grand River Dr) will be closed from the early morning hours on both days of the event, until the event is over. Saturday road closures from 4 am to 11:30 am. Sunday road closures from 4 am to 5 pm. There will be no over night road closures. Residents that live on the closed roads will have access to the roads. You may have to go around some barricades and be prepared to show your ID.

If you are planning a graduation party, birthday, etc., contact Tris4health as soon as possible and they will work with you and the Kent County Sheriff's Department on access for your guests. Churches will be open, but you may need to take a detour. There will be delays and traffic will be re-routed.

Emergency management services have been notified and will have access thru the road closures.

Please contact John Mosey if you have further questions: 616.551.7385 / jmosey@tris4health.com or visit www.grandrapidstri.com.



SUMMER ON THE TRAILS

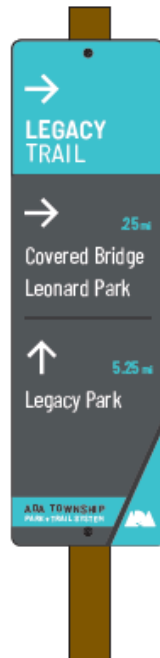
Below is a short update on the Ada Township Trail System. If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website and click "Departments – Parks & Recreation - Trails.

Pettis Avenue Phase II (Chief Hazy Cloud Entrance to Vergennes St.)

Our attempt to seek funding to offset the funding gap of \$6.5 million to build a pedestrian bridge across the Grand River behind Amway was unsuccessful. The trail committee has reviewed this section again and is recommending for the Township to move forward with the path in the original location on the north side of Pettis Ave.

Wayfinding Signage

The signage plan is complete and the next step is to go out to bid for fabrication of the signage and installation. It is anticipated that bids will be received early this summer with fabrication and installation taking place in the late summer/fall.



An example of one of the guide signs is shown here.

Knapp Street Pedestrian Bridge

The project is currently under design and is slated to be constructed in 2025/2026. This is a partnership between Ada Township (\$4M) and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc, via the Grand River Greenway Project (\$3.5M). This bridge will be located on the south side of Knapp Street.

Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge

This pedestrian bridge is currently being designed and will then go through EGLE review and bidding. It is currently projected to be constructed in 2025.

Staff is currently evaluating where along the system the Township should place benches, waste receptacles, bike fix stations, or other amenities important to the user experience on the trail system. The plan will include what will be added, where it will be added and what the timeline for that installation will be.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES



With the summer season fast approaching and warmer weather ahead, I am looking forward to attending several of Ada's events! We are so fortunate to have something for everyone here in Ada- whether it be a concert, parade, or car show. These events are a great way to connect with

neighbors, celebrate our growing village and spend quality time with family and friends. It is also the perfect opportunity to connect with me, along with other first responders who work collaboratively to keep our events safe and fun. I wanted to offer a few tips and tricks for enhanced safety for everyone attending a community event.

BE ALERT TO TRAFFIC AND SIGNALS

From the lens of a first responder, one of our key concerns is traffic and how it interacts with event attendees. With any event, there is an influx of pedestrian traffic and therefore it is important for both motorists and those on foot to abide by traffic and crossing signals. Be vigilant and remain aware of people exiting their vehicles parked on the roadway or walking in between parked cars. While it is always important to be free from distractions while driving, be especially cautious around event parking or the event space itself, as individuals may enter the roadway unexpectedly during the event timeframe.

PLAN REUNIFICATION & EXIT STRATEGY

If you plan to attend an event with your children, it is important to establish a plan for reunification if the group becomes separated as well as an exit strategy if there is inclement weather or an unexpected incident interrupts the event itself. Have a special place for kids of any age to go in the event they become lost and make sure it's a place they recognize and would feel comfortable going. Examples might be the Covered Bridge, the playground at Legacy Park, or Ada Fresh Market.

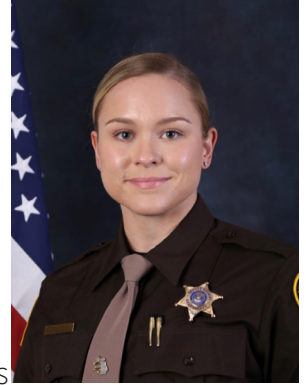
NAME AWARENESS & SEEKING HELP STRATEGIES

Ensure that young children know their first and last name, as well as their parents' full names. You should also tell children to find a police officer, fireman or a mother with other children in the event they become lost or need help. I have witnessed firsthand the effectiveness of a group of Moms coming together to help reunite a lost child while at Legacy Park. If your child becomes lost, do not call out to them. Instead- loudly provide their physical description, clothing, any distinguishing features and lastly their name so the crowd knows who to look for.

PREPARE WITH ESSENTIALS

Parents should ensure phones are well charged and have adequate service in event space areas. Pack basic first aid materials along with adequate water for each family member. I hope for beautiful sunny weather for each of our events so with that said, I'd encourage you pack sunscreen as well! Make sure everyone has some familiarity with where your vehicle is parked should you have to quickly return to it. If, like me, you walk to most events, plan to have several routes in the event one has heavy traffic or becomes blocked.

Whether you're enjoying the music, marveling at a few sports cars or admiring the parade route, it's important to remain aware of your surroundings and occasionally scan your environment. Should you notice anything suspicious, please alert event hosts and ideally law enforcement on site. Event hosts, Ada Township staff, Emergency Management, Ada Fire Department and Kent County Sheriff's Department have worked diligently to ensure our events continue to be a safe space for community members and event attendees. Feel free to reach out with any questions and I look forward to seeing you at our events!



Kate Chase
Community Policing
East Precinct



Omar Dieppa
Community Policing
East Precinct

HYDRANT PAINTING

Ada Township will be contracting the painting of our fire hydrants this late spring and throughout the summer dependent on the weather. This



project aims to not only enhance the aesthetics of our streets but also improve the visibility and functionality of these vital emergency resources. Some of the hydrants to be painted are along: Ada Drive, Bronson Street, Cascade Road, E. Fulton Street, Spaulding Ave, and Thornapple River Drive.

ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS –



SMOKE DETECTORS & ADDRESS SIGNAGE

Stop by the Fire Station to sign up for free smoke detectors that the firefighters will come and install for you. We will also be taking orders for the green/white address signs, these signs help us locate you in the event of an emergency.

SPRING CLEAN-UP AND BURNING

With spring finally arriving you may want to get out and clean up the yard which may include burning some brush. Here are just a few reminders of what you should do first. Get a permit, have a source of water to extinguish the fire, burn only during daylight hours, and always have someone in attendance. If weather conditions are extremely dry or wind conditions are high, please refrain from burning. Recreational fires such as campfires or in a fire pit are allowed without a permit and can take place after dark. For your permit simply call the Township office weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 616-676- 9191.



DEPUTY CHIEF RETIREMENT

Deputy Chief David Langeland announced his retirement from the fire service this month. Chief Langeland has served Ada Township for 20 years, 10 as Deputy Chief. Prior to coming to Ada, he served with the Evergreen Park Fire Department a suburb of Chicago. His fire service career began at the age of 15 and has totaled up 53 years of combined service. In addition to his paid-on call service, he recently retired from GE Aviation as an Engineer. Dave and his wife Carol will be relocating to Milford to be closer to family. During his time with Ada, Dave was the expert in waterflow, mapping, pump operations and anything electronic. His drive to improve the department will be greatly missed by all of us.

NEW STAFF



Selected to fill a newly created 8-5 weekday position is Rory Velting. Rory has been a paid on-call firefighter with Ada for the past four years. Rory and his wife TaraLynn have two children and live in the township. In this newly created position, Rory will be an additional firefighter to respond weekdays when our paid-on call staffing is at a low due to work schedules.

This fall Rory will be attending Fire Inspection class and will soon be inspecting commercial properties in the township.

Ada Township has recently hired a Full Time Buildings Facilities and Grounds Staff – David Rodgers. David has 25 years working with the State of Michigan in the DNR as a Conservation Officer and a Detective. After retiring from the State, he worked on his daughters horse farm for a couple years until she moved out of State. David lives here in Ada and is skilled in many assets that has helped the department. Please welcome David if you see him around town.



Lifelong Ada resident and 10-year veteran of the Ada Township Fire Department Kyle Kalm has been appointed to the position of fulltime firefighter and working a 24/7 shift. Kyle and his wife Andrea along with three children live just down the street from his childhood home. Kyle is a photographer and has served the department as a paid-on call firefighter.



After an extensive and thorough recruitment and interview process, Ethan Engel officially joined the Township as our new Recreation Program Coordinator in March. Ethan is a FH Central alum and grew up in the Ada area. Ethan has several years of experience in working within municipal recreation having served as an Athletics Program Supervisor on the east side of the state for the past 5 years. Ethan is excited to return home and serve his local community through a variety of special events, programs, and leagues. We're grateful to have Ethan on our team and look forward to the ways in which we can continue to best serve our local community.



TOWNSHIP

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE
P.O. BOX 370
Ada, MI 49301

CALENDAR (2024) SUMMER ISSUE

JUNE

- 4 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 10 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 10 Ada Township Board Meeting - 12P
- 13 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3P
- 19 Juneteenth Holiday**
- **Township Offices Closed**
- 20 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting - 8:30A
- 20 Planning Commission - 5:30P

JULY

- 4 Independence Day**
- **Township Offices Closed**
- 8 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 8 Ada Township Board Meeting - 12P
- 9 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 11 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3P
- 16 Board of Review - 8A
- 18 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting - 8:30A
- 18 Planning Commission - 5:30P

AUGUST

- 6 August Primary Election
- 8 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3P
- 12 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 12 Ada Township Board Meeting - 12P
- 13 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 15 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting - 8:30A
- 15 Planning Commission - 5:30P

**Like our new format?
Let us know:
info@adamichigan.org**

**WAYS TO
CONNECT WITH
US**

Township Hall
7330 Thornapple River Dr SE, Ada, MI 49301
616-676-9191

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