

# **ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON – JUNE 19 AND 20**



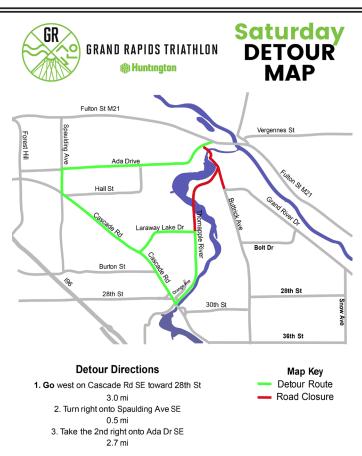
# GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON

(A) Huntington

JUNE 19 - 20, 2021

On Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20, 2021, we will again host the *Grand Rapids Triathlon* in Ada. The main activities will be near the intersection of Buttrick and Thornapple River Drives and at Ada Park. Road closures will occur on both days. A schedule of road closures and detour maps are below. Beneficiaries of this year's Triathlon are *Make-A-Wish Michigan* and *Brody's Be Café*. For more information on the "*GR Triathlon*" visit <a href="www.grandrapidstri.com">www.grandrapidstri.com</a>. For the "*Kids Duathlon*" component visit <a href="www.grkidsduathlon.com">www.grkidsduathlon.com</a>.

Contact the Ada Parks office for questions: (616) 676-0520 / adaparks@adatownshipmi.com.





Saturday, June 19, 4:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. & Sunday, June 20, 4:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

GRTri Road Closures

- Thornapple River Drive from River Street south to Laraway Lake Drive
- Buttrick Avenue from Thornapple River Drive to Grand River Drive
- Grand River from Buttrick to Old Oak Hill Drive

On the Detour Maps, the roads marked in RED will be closed to thru traffic with police stationed at the various access points.

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

# 4TH OF JULY EVENTS



The 4th of July
Fireworks will be in a
new location this year,
shot off at dusk from
the east end of the
Amway property
(7575 E. Fulton St.)
across from the Ada
Fresh Market on
Saturday, July 3rd.
(Monday, July 5th

will be used as a backup rain date.) The new location will allow everyone to safely spread out throughout the Village as they check out restaurants, explore shops, tour Legacy Park, and view the fireworks display. Visit the Township Facebook page in the upcoming months for updated information on event parking and additional details about the fireworks display.

Due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty of future Michigan Department of Health and Human Services restrictions, there will be no activities held (i.e., rides, parade, pancake breakfast, car show) other than the fireworks display. We look forward to celebrating the 4th of July in a big way next year when we can all be together – safe and restriction free.

# NEW NON-PROFIT GROUP SUPPORTS ENHANCEMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES

While Ada Township was wrapping up construction of the Amy Van Andel Library, a group of local residents was busy creating a new local non-profit organization to support enhancement of programs and services at the library.

The new group, Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library, is now recruiting members and accepting donations of used books in good condition that the Friends will offer for sale in periodic Used Book Sale events.

The Friends group also has a large number of quality books that have already been donated on display for sale at attractive prices at the Amy Van Andel Library. The sale books are in the "Book Hold" area located adjacent to the main entry. Purchases are completed at the nearby Concierge Desk.

Funds raised by the Friends will be provided to Kent District Library on a project-specific basis to support Library programs at the Amy Van Andel branch that are not within the capacity of the Library's annual budget.

More information regarding the Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library can be found at: <a href="https://www.adalibraryfriends.com">www.adalibraryfriends.com</a>, and on their Facebook page – Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library.

### **FARMERS MARKET**

It is time for local fresh at the Ada Farmers Market on June 1st, and it looks as though another glorious summer is on tap. There is a lot of information to share about the season, but first, a little housekeeping!



We are excited to say that the Market is returning with the old look everyone loves. This year, as the market is larger, we do not want to be put in the position of restricting traffic as we did last year.

We have yet to define the mask policy for this summer's market. Our eyes are on the numbers and what the state defines for outdoor venues. We expect to release the official policy the week before the market opens, so keep an eye on Facebook for the announcement.

In the meantime, if you do forget and want to wear a mask, we will have masks available for sale or offer a hospital version. We are crossing our fingers that numbers continue to improve so we can announce a mask-free market yet this summer. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

In more good news, our partners at the Amy Van Andel Library are bringing back their story time to the church green space. This event was much missed by our little ones and we are so happy to be bringing it back!

Music in the Market, our hosted event showcasing local buskers, is also on deck with some serious jams this year. Pad some extra time and cash for our local musicians who play for tips from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday. The weekly schedule is posted on our website: adafarmersmarket.com.

It has been another tough winter and spring, and we look forward to seeing everyone return. We saw how being at the Ada Farmers Market last year seemed to lift everyone's spirits and we are expecting even greater delight this year with more regular programming. It is wonderful to have a community space where this can happen. Seeing children skip through the space with parents/siblings in tow, and owners trotting their furry companions along as they browse is always a refreshing sight. This year makes it even more so.

Finally, keep tabs on what is new in the market or any changes – especially weather conditions – via Facebook and Twitter. We will also post content on Instagram.

Help us keep our local fresh healthy by following guidelines and encouraging family and friends to do the same. The safety of our guests and vendors will *always* come first. Trust us, we will immediately post any changes to the mask policy. Heck, we might even have a no-mask party in the middle of the market!



Thank you for making our market the fabulous place it always is, year after year. We can't wait to see all those empty baskets being filled with fresh so make sure yours is tidied up and ready to go. See you soon!



### **GRASS FIRE SEASON**

We have had a few busy days at the start of spring with small grass fires quickly getting out of control. As things green up the risk for grass fires is less, but always remember to take these few precautions when burning. The fire must be attended at all times. A source of extinguishing must be readily available. The fire must be out by dark, recreational fires are an exception to this rule. Remember to always get a burn permit for controlled burns and to abstain from burning on dry and windy days. The area in the portion of the Township located south of Fulton/M-21 and west of the Grand River is restricted from burning between April 30 and November 1. A permit may be obtained by calling the Township office at (616) 676-9191. If you have questions about open burning, please call the fire station.

### **CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS**

With summer vacations coming, make sure that your family is safe to travel. We offer free car seat and booster seat inspections by our certified inspector. Give us a call to set up a time and in about 10 minutes we will make sure you are ready for your journey!



# **UL LISTED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

Many of the fires we respond to are electrical in nature. When purchasing any electrical devices, ensure that they are UL Listed. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is a

standards-setting organization that provides independent testing of electrical products for safe use. Take the time to research and reduce your chance of an electrical fire.



# PLEASE HELP MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE PLANTS IN ADA

Ada residents are encouraged to identify, reduce and/or remove invasive plant species from their property and to properly dispose of them. An invasive plant is defined as a plant that is not native and has negative effects on our economy, environment, or human health.

# Springtime is the best time to "Pull" Garlic Mustard



Garlic Mustard (Alliaria petiolata) is a highly invasive plant that out-competes native plants and disrupts field and forest ecology. Recognized by their 4-petaled, white flowers, leaves with toothed edges and an odor of garlic when crushed. These plants produce copious amounts of seeds that spread easily and can remain in the soil for several years. Even more damaging, they also alter soil chemistry which prevents

the growth of other plants.

Removal is often the best method, ideally done before plants go to seed. Grasp low and firmly on the plant's stem and gently tug until the entire main root pulls out. Target areas with a few plants first, and then move into larger infestations. For disposal, pulled plants should be placed into plastic garbage bags and put in the trash to be incinerated. To prevent the

# For more information, try these links:

Michigan Invasive Plant Network: www.mipn.org

Michigan Natural Features Inventory Invasive Plant Field Guide: https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/InvasivePlantsFieldGuide.pdf State of Michigan Invasive Species:

https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002\_71240---,00.html

Midwest Invasive Species Information Network: https://www.misin.msu.edu/states/michigan/

The Stewardship Network: <a href="https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/">https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/</a>
Kent Conservation District: <a href="https://www.kentconservation.org/">https://www.kentconservation.org/</a>

spread of seeds, do not mix the plants with other "yard waste" or add to compost. If you do not have a disposal source, Ada residents may drop off bags with only Garlic Mustard in them next to the dumpster in Ada Park. We will add them to count for the "Garlic Mustard Challenge." You may also take part in the "GM Challenge" by reporting the bags you collect at: <a href="https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/springchallenge/">https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/springchallenge/</a>.

Photo credit: C. Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

# These Vines are not so "Sweet"



**Oriental Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculata)** is recognized by its long vines that "wind" up trees and their showy red and yellow fruits. As the vines make their way up trees, they restrict sap flow, cover the tree leaves and eventually kill the tree. They can be seen along many roadsides

and in woodlots throughout Ada Township.

Oriental Bittersweet closely resembles the native American bittersweet, traditionally used for decorations. American bittersweet is less common in Ada Township and bears flowers and fruit only at the ends of vines, whereas the Oriental species produces fruit all along the vine.

Removal takes some care and can be done from early summer through the fall and winter. Be careful not to pull on vines that may cause overhead branches to fall. Use loppers or pruners to cut the vines at the ground level and as high as you can reach. It is best to apply an herbicide to the cut section near the ground, being cautious not to get any on you, nearby plants, or the ground. If you wish to avoid use of herbicides, you will need to revisit the site to pull out small new vines that will grow up in the area. Woody sections of cut vines can be left to decompose, but any berries should be bagged and put in the trash. For more details, see: <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002">https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002</a> 71240 73852-379484--,00.html.

Photo Credit: J. Allison, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

# 2021-2022 UTILITY RATE INCREASE INFORMATION

The Township Board reviews and adjusts the water and sewer rates charged to our customers every year. With your latest water/sewer bill you will see the following increases.

#### **Water Rates**

The Township raised the water rates 10% this year. This is due to the following.

- We purchase our water wholesale from the City of Grand Rapids. Earlier this year the City increased the wholesale rate they charge us by 9.13%.
- Last year the Township Board authorized a three-year, \$8 million project to remove and replace all the older cast iron watermain in the Adacroft, Adatowne, and a part of the Ada Woods neighborhoods. This watermain (over 5 miles) will be replaced with ductile iron pipe. After this is complete, all of our 41 miles of watermain will be ductile iron pipe.
- Our Township is growing, so we also need to increase the capacity of the Ada Drive water pumping station with a larger pump and new electrical controls. Work on this \$300,000 project will be completed next month.
- We also need to repaint the Knapp Street water tower later this summer.

#### **Sewer Rates**

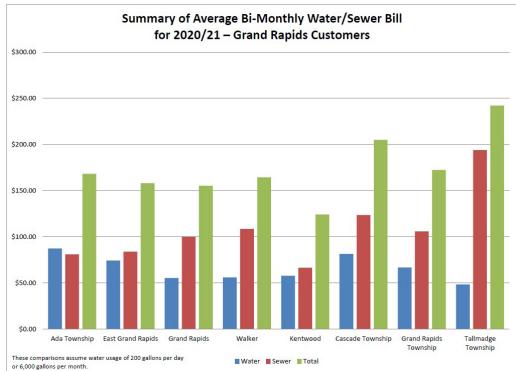
The Township raised the sewer rates 5.2% this year. This is due to the following.

• Our sewer system flows into the City of Rapids system, and the City increased the wholesale sewer rate they charge us by 9.42%. Most of this increase is to cover Ada Township's portion of the new \$80 million bio-digester currently under construction at the Grand Rapids Water Resource Recovery Facility (wastewater treatment plant). When completed, this will convert wastewater to natural gas which can be sold back to the grid. In a few years this should generate funds to offset future sewer rate increases.

- We recently competed significant improvements to the Township sewer system including \$2 million to re-line over a mile of the Township's main sewer line under Ada Drive. This sewer line was over fifty years old and was severely corroded. The relining of the main should provide reliable service for another fifty years.
- There are six sewage pumping stations in the Township, and we are budgeting \$750,000 for repairs/upgrades that will be required over the next few years.

In summary, the projects listed above represent a \$10 million investment into our water and sewer system. We anticipate both systems will serve us well into the future.

Below is a bar chart that shows Ada Township rates relative to other communities in our area that are fed from the Grand Rapids water and sewer system. Even with the recent rate increases and significant recent capital investments, Ada Township rates remain competitive with our surrounding communities.





# **NEW ZONING ORDINANCE FOR BACKYARD**

Revisions to the Township's zoning ordinance were recently adopted to permit keeping of small numbers of poultry on property in the Township's residential zoning districts, subject to a number of standards to preclude objectionable impacts on neighborhoods. The new rules are posted on the Township website, and can be found at the following link: <a href="http://adamichigan.org/uploads/township/Planning-Zoning/BackyardPoultry.pdf">http://adamichigan.org/uploads/township/Planning-Zoning/BackyardPoultry.pdf</a>.

# **ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Events for June, July, August 2021**



www.AdaHistoryCenter.org (616) 676-9346 7144 Headley St., P.O. Box 741 Ada, MI 49301 AdaHistoryCenter@gmail.com

### ANNOUNCING THE ADA HISTORY CENTER

We are thrilled to share a new name for our campus: the Ada History Center. We are and have always been focused on Ada History. Only now we've simplified the name.

What will you find at the Ada History Center? The campus includes the Averill Historical Museum with exhibits about our community's history, Ada Historical Society activities, programming and offices, the community archives, meeting room, a historic barn, a variety of gardens, and memorials to Rix Robinson.

We're chock full of opportunities to *preserve*, *share*, and *celebrate* the unique history of the Ada community. Be on the lookout for new signs and check out our new website, <u>AdaHistoryCenter.org</u>. We hope to welcome you soon to upcoming events and offerings at the Ada History Center.

#### **OPEN HOURS**

Fridays 1-4pm. The museum re-opened to limited visitation beginning in May. Please check our website for up-to-date information on open hours and safety procedures.

# **NEW EXHIBITS**

#### Ada Is...Rooted in Trade

200 years ago, Ada was part of an international fur trading network.

Experience the interaction of cultures centered around Ada's trading post that helped establish our community today.

# Ada Is...Answering the Call

People from Ada have served in the US military since at least the Civil War. A new permanent exhibit begins to explore the stories of Ada veterans, with more to come.

Visitors line up to see the Freedom Train, Tuesday, July 8, 1975. Ada was the 16th stop on a nationwide tour to celebrate the American Bicentennial. Amway's railroad siding could accommodate the train's 26 cars and three enormous steam engines. Twelve display cars showed over 500 national treasures including George Washington's copy of the US Constitution, Judy Garland's dress from The Wizard of Oz, Babe Ruth's bat, Martin Luther King Jr.'s pulpit and robes, and a rock from the moon.

# June 10, July 8, August 12 – Monthly Board Meeting

3:00pm. Historical Society board meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month and are open to the public. We welcome your involvement. Please email or call for information on location and how to connect.

# Music on the Lawn – Wednesdays at Legacy Park

7:00pm at Legacy Park, 7450 River Street, Ada. Ada Historical Society is pleased to present six "Music on the Lawn" concerts this summer as part of Ada Township's summer concerts series. The full series will be offered throughout June, July & August. AHS will present Music on the Lawn concerts on June 9 & 23, July 21 & 28, August 11 & 25, while Ada Parks will facilitate the other nights. Volunteers are always welcome to help. Check our website for up-to-date information, a full schedule of performances, and volunteer opportunities.

# **Centennial Properties Program**

Have you noticed the bronze plaques popping up on buildings around the village? 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. Find photos of all these treasures on our Facebook page. Check out our website <a href="https://www.AdaHistoryCenter.org">www.AdaHistoryCenter.org</a> for more information on the program and an application. Contact us with any questions.



# **ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

#### **Contact Information:**

**Phone:** (616) 676-0520 **Fax:** (616) 676-5870 Email: adaparks@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.

# **Kent County Parks in Ada Township:**

Chief Hazy Cloud Park, 150 Pettis Ave. Seidman Park, 8155 Conservation Rd. www.kentcountyparks.org

# PARK RULES AND USE

COVID-19: Some facilities and amenities may be limited in use or closed. Recommended protocols are still in place.

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.

# **UPDATES ON PARKS, PRESERVES & TRAILS**

# **Facility Reservations and Rentals**

We are taking reservations for facility use and rentals, although many COVID-19 restrictions are still in place. Reservations and rentals for the Community Rooms in the new Amy Van Andel Library will be coordinated through the Park office. Contact the Park office for details.

# **Leonard Field Park Improvements**

A grant has been submitted to the MI DNR for funding to support improvements to the riverfront access and decks. Pledges for contributions are welcome at this time. For details, contact the Park office.

New lights and poles were installed on the ball field in April. This is the second phase of the master plan for improvements to the safety

and access for the park.



# **Roselle Park Improvements**

Improvements to the main wet areas along the non-paved trail have been completed. This will make it easier for walkers, bicyclist and XC skiers to use the trails.

Plans for constructing a new accessible shelter, picnic area and improvements to the playground and parking lot are set for 2022. Pledges for contributions are welcome at this time. Contact the Park office on how your donations can help.

### **Bike Paths and Non-Motorized Trails**

In the current fiscal year, the Township is working on plans to reconstruct the oldest part of the trail system, the following

- Ada Drive from Alta Dale to the west extent
- Consumers Energy Trail (Ada Dr. to Hall St.)
- Replacement of three bridges on Ada Dr.

The trails committee is working with our Township Engineers to identify what new construction projects might be feasible to move forward in 2021 as well as the next few years. They will be working to create a multi-year plan to leverage millage dollars with grant funding so even more new trails can be built throughout the community. Once this plan is completed it will be shared with the public and discussion will be held on the projects and preliminary timelines.

Please report any issues or concerns regarding the paved trail system to the Park office at (616) 676-0520 or adaparks@ adatownshipmi.com.



Photo credit: Ken Coviak

# **ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

# COVID-19 is still with us - Please keep safe

We ask everyone to still practice social distancing, good sanitation and wear masks as directed.

**Wi-Fi** is available in the parks. It will appear on your device as "Name of Park" Public Wi-Fi.

# DONATIONS, CHARITABLE GIFTS AND PLEDGES

As a government entity, donations to Ada Township are tax deductible and always appreciated.

# Current opportunities include:

- General gifts to support facilities, trails and programs.
- Engraved pavers for the Amy Van Andel Library and Legacy Park. See: www.ournextchapterada.org.
- Leonard Field Park pledges and donations are being accepted for improvements to the riverfront decks, river access area and ball field fencing.
- Roselle Park pledges and donations are being accepted for a new accessible shelter, picnic area, picnic tables, trees, and a playground structure. Naming opportunities available for several items.



# **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteer opportunities include assisting with gardens, grounds, trails, habitat stewardship, office clerical task, summer concerts and youth programs. Individuals and groups are welcome. Contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.

Thanks to the Ada-Cascade Rotary and Forest Hills Northern Student Chapter for their Earth Day River Cleanup held at Leonard Field and Legacy Park on April 24th.







# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### **SUMMER PROGRAMS**

While COVID-19 still has public safety and health concerns, we are opening up more outdoor programs while maintaining protocols of distancing, masks and the amount of people able to gather. Some community events have once again been adjusted or canceled.

Please contact the Park office for details, registrations or to be put on our mailing list for updates: (616) 676-0584 / adaparks@adatownshipmi.com.

Events and programs are also posted on our website and the Ada Village page on Facebook.

# Some Highlights for Legacy Park:

- Music on the Lawn Summer Concerts Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m.
- Youth Open Mic Nights 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Outdoor Yoga
  Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
  Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.



# Other events and programs:

- Grand Rapids Triathlon on June 19 & 20
- 4th of July Fireworks planned for July 3rd
- Summer youth programs:

The regular day camps with 3-day sessions will not be offered this summer; some single and 1/2-day programs will be. Check with the Park office or website for updates.

• **Garden plots:** We are opening up the garden next to the Community Church for a few rental areas. Check with the Park office for details.



# ADULT FALL SOFTBALL TEAM REGISTRATIONS

Our fall league will start in mid-August and run through the end of September. These include leagues for men's slow pitch and coed slow pitch. Team registrations will start in July with an entry fee of \$375.00.

Contact <u>rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com</u> for information.





TOWNSHIP

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

# **CALENDAR (2021) SUMMER ISSUE**

# **JUNE**

- Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board – 8:30A
- Ada Historical Society Board Meeting
- 14 Downtown Development Authority – 8A
- 14 Ada Township Board Meeting **NOON**
- 15 Farmers Market 9A-2P Planning Commission - 7P
- Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Ada Township Board Meeting NOON
- Farmers Market 9A-2P

#### **JULY**

# 5 CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

- 6 Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30A
- Ada Historical Society Board Meeting
- Downtown Development Authority
- 12 Ada Township Board Meeting **NOON**

- Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Planning Commission 7P
- 20 Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Board of Review 8A @Ada Township Hall
- 26 Ada Township Board Meeting NOON
- 27 Farmers Market 9A-2P

#### **AUGUST**

- 2 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Downtown Development Authority
- Ada Township Board Meeting **NOON**
- Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board – 8:30A
- Ada Historical Society Board Meeting
- Farmers Market 8A-2P
- Planning Commission 7P
- Ada Township Board Meeting **NOON**
- Farmers Market 9A-2P
- Farmers Market 9A-2P

PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES. SOME OF THESE MAY BE "VIRTUAL" MEETINGS

www.adatownshipmi.com

PRSRT. STD. US POSTAGE **PAID** Grand Rapids, MI Permit No. 657

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

(remove & save)

AdaView is published by Ada Township Board.

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE P.O. Box 370

Ada, Michigan 49301

www.adatownshipmi.com

**TELEPHONE:** (616) 676-9191

**HOURS:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F, closed Federal holidays

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