

THE ADAVIEW

A newsletter published by Ada Township

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERVISOR.....	2
TOWNSHIP CONTACTS.....	2
FROM THE CLERK'S DESK.....	3
TREASURER DEPARTMENT.....	3
ADA COVERED BRIDGE PARK.....	4-5
FAREWELL HALEY STICHMAN.....	5
PARK PULSE.....	6
PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE.....	7
FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS.....	7
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	8
ADA FARMERS MARKET THANK YOU!.....	9
STREETScape FLOWER BED IMPROVEMENTS.....	9
ADA HISTORY CENTER.....	10
FRIENDS OF THE AMY VAN ANDEL LIBRARY.....	11
CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING AT ADA PARK.....	11
CALENDAR.....	12

A LETTER FROM THE INCOMINGSUPERVISOR

Dear Ada Residents and Friends,

Firstly, I want to share a heartfelt thank you to Ross Leisman, our recently retired supervisor, and all of the folks who were hugely instrumental in assisting Ada's local government to so smoothly transition to an organization befitting the enormous residents' and private investment that has created the Ada of today.



Tom Korth
Supervisor

For everyone who is not familiar with me, let me tell you a bit about myself. Ada became my family's chosen forever-home over thirty years ago. Though employed with my parents' aviation business based in Miami, I was able to be an early adopter of working remotely. My wife, Lucy, and I had the opportunity to move anywhere we really wanted to. We handpicked Ada because it's a really wonderful place to live and raise a family. It ticked all of our boxes. We have raised two wonderful sons here and remain firmly planted in its picturesque countryside.

In the late '90s, looking to be of service and keen on ensuring Ada remained uniquely special, I accepted

an appointment to the Ada Township Planning Commission and have been on the commission for most of the years since, giving direct input on much of the evolutionary enhancements to our community. In 2013, I founded an Ada-based commercial aviation support company, Aviapool.

Good fortune has presented me the opportunity to expand my service to Ada. I am energized to utilize my local depth of experience to ideally meld the richness of our people and the village we deeply care for, for both ourselves and the coming generations. Now is the time reap the benefit of all the effort by ensuring we protect, polish, and enrich the wonderful quality and pleasant life we have in Ada.

As your new supervisor, I will utilize all of my efforts to retain and refine what it is to call Ada home. I look very forward to getting to know more of you on this journey.

Sincerely,

Tom Korth

Ada Township Supervisor

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

Supervisor
Tom Korth

Clerk
Jo Demarco

Deputy: emcintosh@adatownshipmi.com

Treasurer
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Kate Chase: 430-7811

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TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

The Clerk's Office: Post Election

The Clerk's Office would like to extend a formal thank you to all those who staffed our elections in the past year. Election Inspectors are trained by Kent County and your local clerk to work the polls on election day. Inspectors are dedicated members of your community who volunteer their time to ensure the lawful and effective administration of our elections. Our office would not be able to administer elections without their support, integrity and knowledge. We thank them for their continued integrity and passion for their community that they demonstrate throughout the election process.

As we come to the end of a very busy election season, the Clerk's office has been center stage for resident questions and inquiries. However, elections aren't the only thing our Clerk's Office manages for the Township.

Our Clerk's Office keep all township records, ensuring proper storage and retention. The Clerk's Office is also manager of the two township owned cemeteries. Our Ada Cemetery is full, with only a handful of 'cremains only' spaces remaining, and the Findlay Cemetery is filling up fast. Please be sure to contact us if you are interested in purchasing spaces. The Clerk's Office also handles the front of house role and office administration for the Township. If you've ever called the township, you have likely spoken to the Clerk's Office before being directed to the department that will best be able to answer your question.

At the November 5th Election, Ada Residents selected our new clerk. Our office will be working hard to support the new clerk in her roll as we move into 2025.

TREASURER DEPARTMENT

As we near the end of 2024 and we put a pause on taking a closer look at your tax dollars at work, I wanted to quickly review this past year while looking forward to a few initiatives within the Treasurer's office in 2025.

Last winter's Ada View discussed processing tax payments via credit card. Over the past year, we have narrowed our focus on four payment processing firms that can add value and be more interactive with you the resident. We look forward to a March 2025 implementation with one of these firms, likely in conjunction with some Township wide initiatives.

This spring we conveyed the benefit of higher interest rates. Since then, we have seen rates fall due to either the possibility of a rate move or the actual half point cut by the Federal Reserve this September. We monitor interest rates very closely since it dictates how excess township funds get invested. You can see the fall in rates these last twelve months below.

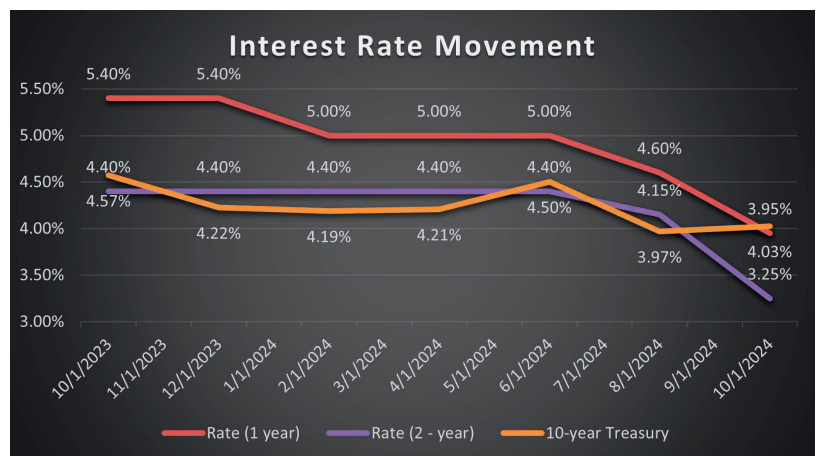
While we have discussed how your tax dollars get allocated this summer and fall, it is important to note that a large part of what we do in the Treasurer's office for over 5 months of the year is spent collecting those tax dollars. With your Winter tax bills showing up in your mailbox December 1st, the one issue that we hear the most is that you don't recall receiving the bill itself. We are here to help!

You should receive your tax bill within the first few days of it being mailed out. We typically vary the color of the tax bill, and this winter it will be blue. Keep in mind that tax bills are not forwarded, so if you are a new resident of Ada, recently received a certificate of occupancy, winter somewhere other than Ada, etc., please make sure we have an updated address for you!

If you have not received your tax bill within the first week of December, we encourage you to call or email us. We would be happy to send you an electronic copy of your bill. You can also reference our website, which I admit can currently be a little cumbersome. Therefore, in 2025 we will be making your ability to view and make a payment via our website much more prominent.



Kevin Moran
Treasurer



ADA COVERED BRIDGE PARK

PROJECT UPDATE

Work continues to bring the newly announced Ada Covered Bridge Park to reality. This park will continue to elevate recreation and community placemaking in Ada Village for years to come. The goal of this project is to bring a variety of amenities that cater to all ages and interests – a true park for all. Among the highlights are pedestrian safety, a splash pad, large play structures, dog park, ample green space for relaxation and picnics, and paved and unpaved trails along the Thornapple River. The park will also feature a veteran's memorial, two pickleball courts, a river overlook deck, and increased parking. The pedestrian bridge connecting the Oxbow community and Legacy Park will further improve pedestrian access into the park and into Ada Village.

This development is set to enhance the sense of community in Ada Village, offering a beautiful and versatile space where residents can gather, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors. The park and trails will provide a perfect setting for community events, family outings, and spontaneous meet-ups, fostering a stronger, more connected neighborhood. The Ada Covered Bridge Park and its surrounding amenities will undoubtedly become a cherished part of the village, promoting both physical activity and social interaction among its community.

We need your support to make the Ada Covered Bridge Park a reality. Our Connecting Community Campaign is dedicated to enhancing Leonard Park for everyone to enjoy. Your contributions are crucial in helping us achieve this goal of \$8.5 million as we are currently at \$8.1 million. Please consider donating and being a part of this exciting project that is being designed this Summer by the Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Committee. Together, we can create a beautiful and meaningful space for our community.

We're excited to share new renderings of the Ada Covered Bridge Park! Please note that these updated visuals are specific to the park area only and do not include features such as the pedestrian bridge, trail expansion, or kayak launch.

Keep in mind that these renderings are preliminary, and the final engineering design is still in progress. At the October 28th board meeting, the Township officially hired Progressive Companies to handle the design engineering. This step keeps us on track to bid the project out in Spring 2025 as we move closer to making these plans a reality.

If you have questions about the campaign or donating, please reach out to Julius Suchy, Township Manager. Additional information can be found at www.connectingcommunitycampaign.com.



COVERED BRIDGE PARK - SOUTH

- 1 PLAYGROUND WITH RUBBER PLAY SURFACE
- 2 SPLASH PAD
- 3 CANOPY
- 4 NEW UTILITY AND MAINTINANCE BUILDING
- 5 PICKLE BALL COURTS
- 6 FLEXIBLE SEATING SPACES
- 7 ENTRY LANDSCAPE AND SIGN
- 8 BIKE RACKS
- 9 DONOR WALL AND SCULPTURE
- 10 OPEN RECREATION AREA
- 11 FOOD TRUCK AREA (ALSO PARKING)
- 12 PARKING LOT WITH POROUS PAVEMENT (47 SPACES)
- 13 DOG PARK
- 14 SIDEWALK CONNECTION



FAREWELL TO HALEY STICHMAN

Ada Township extends our heartfelt gratitude to Haley Stichman, who has announced her resignation as Downtown Development Director to pursue a new role with Kent County. Haley's leadership and commitment to Downtown Ada's growth and vitality will leave a lasting impact on our community, and her contributions have set the stage for continued success in the years to come.

During her time with the Township, Haley led several significant initiatives that will be long remembered for their positive impact:

- 1. Creation and Expansion of the Ada Social District.** She was instrumental in the establishment and growth of the Ada Social District, fostering a unique environment that encourages community engagement while supporting local businesses. This addition has quickly become a cherished asset to Ada, drawing residents and visitors alike.
- 2. Enhancement of the Beers at the Bridge Events.** With her leadership, Beers at the Bridge evolved into an even more vibrant community gathering. Her thoughtful planning and innovative enhancements transformed these events, making them a highlight of the year for

our community, creating memorable experiences for attendees of all ages.

- 3. Collaboration with Key Community Stakeholders.** She prioritized strong, effective relationships with the Ada Business Association, Discover Ada, and other community stakeholders. Her excellent collaboration strengthened connections within Ada, paving the way for a unified approach to community development and event planning that will continue to benefit the Township.
 - 4. Creation of the Progressive Tastings Program.** Haley brought the Progressive Tastings program to life, further enhancing Ada's social and cultural scene. This initiative has provided residents and visitors an opportunity to explore the best of Ada's culinary offerings in a unique and engaging way.
- Ada Township will greatly miss Haley's passion and dedication. We wish her every success in her new position, knowing she will continue to excel and make a difference. Thank you, Haley, for your outstanding service and the many contributions that have enriched our community. We are grateful for your time with us and look forward to seeing all you will accomplish in the future.

PARK PULSE

If you had the opportunity to swing by Ada Park in early September, or were maybe just passing through you probably noticed several tents set up and scattered throughout the park. On Saturday, September 7th & 8th the Parks and Recreation team hosted its inaugural **Community Campout**, inviting families to enjoy a night under the stars. With over 100 participants, families were provided the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities which included dinner, a live animal display and experience, a bonfire story time and s'mores, and we wrapped up the evening with a movie. We are grateful for the support and collaboration from our community partners from Plumfield Books, TruMedia, and the Blandford Nature Center who helped us create this special experience for everyone. We hope you can join us in 2025 as we highlight Ada Township's commitment to providing diverse recreational opportunities that enhance community connections and promote the enjoyment of the great outdoors.



Wesley Deason
Parks Director

SEASON RECAP

Ada Township has a rich tradition of both baseball and softball leagues that date back to the late 1800's, fostering community engagement and athletic spirit for generations. This year, we proudly carried on that tradition and wrapped up another successful summer & fall season with over 50 teams playing in just over 420 games. Our leagues continue to provide a platform for players of all ages and abilities with the opportunity to showcase their skills, build friendships, and create lasting memories.



FACILITY RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know the Parks & Recreation Department operates a variety of different rental facilities that community members can utilize for family gatherings and other special events? For a full listing of these spaces and to check availability please visit <https://bit.ly/FacRentals>. Contact us directly with any questions you may have.

A friendly reminder that our seasonal outdoor shelters and pavilions are not available for rent from November 1st – March 31st. All rental requests can be made up to 365 days in advance.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE (AGES 3+)

Join us for a magical evening at the first Daddy/Daughter Dance! Dress in your finest attire and come dance your feet off to create unforgettable memories at Roselle Park. Snacks, light refreshments, photo opportunities and more await! Space is limited, so get your seats today! Registration opens Monday, Jan. 6, 2025.



Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025 (6p-8p)

Location: Roselle Park Resource Building

Fee: \$15/participant

PARENT/CHILD CORNHOLE LEAGUE

Looking for a fun indoor activity for the winter months? Check out our inaugural Parent/Child Cornhole league! Leagues run for six weeks on Tuesday nights at Roselle Park in a fun-filled, family friendly atmosphere. One adult (ages 18+) and one child (17 and under) per team. Teams will have two games per night.

Dates: 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11

Times: 6p (ages 8-10), 6:45p (ages 11-13), 7:30p (ages 14-17)

Fee: \$60/team



NOTE OF APPRECIATION

A special word of thanks to local artist Craig Merchant and representatives from the DeVos Family Foundation Trail Club who donated and installed a Gnome Home play structure in Ada Park. This uniquely designed feature provides a fun and whimsical element to the park and can be found in the parks unpaved trail system.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

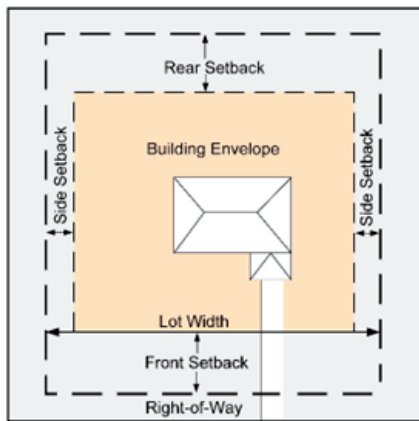
ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE – PUBLIC INPUT WELCOME!

The Department of Planning is now working on an update of the Ada Township Zoning Ordinance, and welcomes input from the public. The primary goals of this update are:

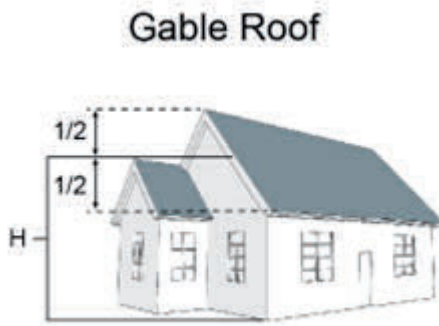
- Reorganize the Ordinance so that it is more user-friendly, with simplification and transparency to serve the community. This will include the use of tables, charts, and illustrations to explain zoning requirements more effectively. A few example illustrations are noted below.
- Implement goals of the 2023 Master Plan, including consideration of a variety of residential options.
- Enact minor changes to reflect updated development standards, legal rulings (regarding issues such as sign regulations), and to minimize repetition and inconsistencies.

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

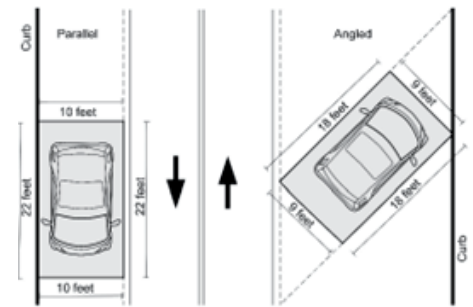
(Yard Locations Example)



(Roof Height Example)



Parking Dimensions Example)



These diagrams were taken as examples from the Holland Charter Township Zoning Ordinance.

FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVE 'LIFE SAVING AWARD'



Each year Kent County Emergency Medical Services recognize care providers for Life Saving events and Exceptional Patient Care. This year five of our members will receive awards in both categories.

The first event was in March when our team responded to unresponsive female in her home in the village. They performed CPR saving the victims life who made a full recovery. Life Saving Award.

The second involved a single vehicle accident where the vehicle left the roadway, rolled over and landing about 25

feet down an embankment. The vehicle was not visible from the road. A citizen traveling the same road noticed the vehicle that had passed them had disappeared. They turned around and searched the area locating the car, then called 911 while providing care to the patient. Had they not stopped the vehicle could have gone hours without being located. Exceptional Patient Care

The third incident involved a male in his 20's that went into cardiac arrest while working on a lawn mowing crew. His coworkers began CPR, our members arrived and continued CPR. This patient also made a full recovery. Life Saving Award.

The award recipients are Lt. Nick Dewey, Lt. Brandon Holmes, Firefighters Kyle Kalm, Neil Kuyvenhoven, Rory Velting and Fire Chief David Murray.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Experience Winter Wonderland in Ada this season. Mark your calendars and join the fun!

12.1 - 12.31 Festival of Trees

(7430 River St SE)

Walk through Legacy Park to see the trees decorated by Ada businesses. Stroll the pathway and view the trees as part of the Holiday Lights Walk in Ada. **Presented by the Ada Business Association.**

12.1 - 01.1 Ada Village Window Competition

Walk through Ada Village to enjoy the beauty of the lights, the decorative windows, the trees and more. Vote for your favorite window decoration for a chance to win a \$500 gift card. **Presented by #DiscoverAda.**

12.1 - 01.31 Winter Lights Walking Trail

A walking loop - just under a mile - through the Winter Wonderland lights in Ada, a perfect walk for families and people of all ages. **Presented by the Ada Township Downtown Development Authority.**

12.6 Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys | 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m

Get in the holiday spirit by attending the annual Covered Bridge Lighting (7490 Thornapple River Dr SE) and enjoying the many holiday activities occurring in Ada Village - trolley rides, Santa's Village, delicious treats, in-store specials and so much more! **Presented by the Ada Business Association.**

12.7 Ada Santa Parade | 10 a.m.

The name says it all, it's a parade all about Santa! Your Ada Firefighters are again welcoming Santa to town. After he parades through the village, Santa will make a stop at the Fire Station for pictures, cookies, and hot chocolate. So, make your list and come talk with Santa! **Presented by our very own Ada Township Fire Department.**

12.7 Ada Chili & Beer Festival | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(7239 Thornapple River Dr SE)

Enjoy 20+ craft breweries and 40+ chili makers and restaurateurs from the area making their special blend for the community! Benefitting The RMHC West Michigan. **Hosted by The RMHC West Michigan.**

12.14 Women's Night | 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

A fun-filled night where the businesses of Ada Village cater to their women customers with discounts, food, beverages, prizes, and giveaways. **Presented by the Ada Village Businesses and #DiscoverAda**



WANT MORE EVENT INFORMATION?

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



⇒ Thank You! ⇐

The farmers market is done for the season but thank you to everyone who came over and spent time with us.

See you next Summer 2025!

Thank you to our Sponsors!



Follow us on social media to keep up with what happens at the farmers market!

@adafarmersmarket

SCAN ME!



STREETSCAPE FLOWER BED IMPROVEMENT

Township staff completed an assessment of downtown light pole planters and flower beds, identifying several areas in need of improvement, specifically along Bronson and Old Headley, where the original wood edging had deteriorated. In March, the DDA Board approved a plan to address these issues by replacing the aging wood edging with durable precast concrete boards.

As part of the project, the size of these older beds—originally 4 ft. x 13 ft.—were reduced to 4 ft. x 6 ft. to align with newer beds along Headley St. and Ada Dr. This update not only created a more cohesive streetscape but also allowed seasonal flowers to thrive. Additionally, irrigation adjustments were made to support the new layouts.

We appreciate the community's patience during these improvements and invite any feedback on the updated flower beds as we move into future planting seasons.



ADA HISTORY CENTER

ADA HISTORY CENTER

50 years
Ada
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Preserve
Share
Celebrate

25 years
Averill
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1870
1999

www.AdaHistoryCenter.org
616.676.9346

7144 Headley St., PO Box 741
AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

Ada History Center is a non-profit organization that preserves, shares, and celebrates the unique history of the Ada community. At the Ada History Center, you can find the activities of the Ada Historical Society, local history exhibits, and park-like gardens and grounds. For up-to-date hours, programming and more, check our website www.AdaHistoryCenter.org

TEMPORARY EXHIBIT – WANDERLUST: ADA ARTIST KREIGH COLLINS

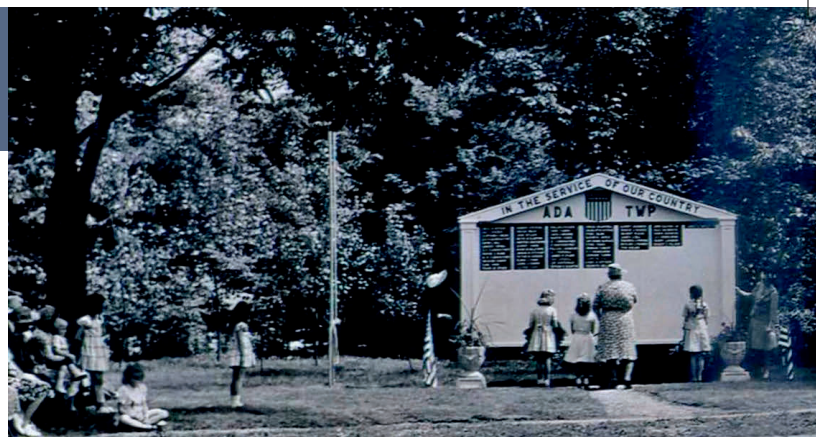
We've delighted in sharing the diverse talents and colorful life of Ada's own Kriegh Collins this year. But the exhibit lasts through December only! It's your last chance to be inspired by the illustrator, painter, and internationally syndicated cartoonist. We'll take January and February to design and install the new exhibit, launching in March 2025.



In the 1960s, Thornapple Slopes Ski Area operated across Grand River Dr. from today's Ada Park. William Seidman ran it as a private club enjoyed by about 100 area families. \$25 would buy you a season pass and a key to operate the tow rope motors. Other amenities included lights for night skiing, a skating pond, a paddle tennis court, and a warming shack at the summit (200 ft. vertical) that served hot dogs and hot chocolate.



Patch worn to identify members of the Thornapple Slopes Ski Area



Honoring those who served, 1944

ADA'S VETERANS' MEMORIAL

Many towns, large and small, have a place honoring veterans. In the spring of 1944, during World War II, a large celebration was held to dedicate a service memorial in Ada. The display, known as a service board honor roll, was erected at the south corner of Ada and Thornapple River Drives, where the telephone building is today. The Lowell High School Band led a parade to the ceremony. At the dedication, the board displayed the 144 names of Ada men and women serving in the military. One year later there would be 170 names.

Where is that service board today? No record has yet been found of what happened to it. After years of interest, Ada Township is making plans to establish a new memorial on River Street, as part of additions to the covered bridge park. Stay tuned for more as the project progresses.

OPEN HOURS:

Ada History Center is open December Tuesdays, Fridays & the 1st Saturday, 1-4:00pm OR BY APPOINTMENT. The museum takes a winter's nap each January & February to give our volunteers a break and do some behind-the-scenes collections and exhibit work.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Beginning Nov. 22 – Holiday Wreath Sale.** Support Ada Historical Society's annual fundraiser with a fresh-cut evergreen wreath. Sale hours are Fridays, 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-5:30pm until the last wreath is sold.
- **Friday, Dec. 6 - Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys.** 5:30-9pm. The History Center participates in the village-wide event with a visit from Mrs. Claus, treats, and the wreath sale in the barn.
- **Saturday, Dec. 7 - Ada Santa Parade.** Warm up exploring the museum exhibits and enjoy cookies & hot chocolate in the barn.
- **Thursdays, Dec. 12, Jan. 11, Feb. 13 - 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!

FRIENDS OF THE AMY VAN ANDEL LIBRARY



As fall rushes in, our thoughts turn to events with family and friends, wrapping up in warm clothing, and relaxing with a good book by a warm fire.

Donate

Many of us have limited storage for books. No worries - the Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library accepts book donations during all normal library hours. Just drop them off with the librarian.

We are also hosting a book donation week October 21-26th to expand our inventory and help you make room for those "new to you" books in December!

During our special book donation week, books can be dropped off on a table located in the corridor to the right just inside the library entry.

Join/Volunteer

Become a Friends member. Fill out a membership form at the library or join at adalibraryfriends.com/join-donate. Consider volunteering your skills and time at our events or at the library in our used book sorting, boxing and shelving process.

Contact us at adalibraryfriends@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/adalibraryfriends and Instagram at instagram.com/adalibraryfriends.

Holiday Used Book Sale:

Whether you are planning to purchase books for the colder temperature days ahead or starting your holiday shopping, the used book sale is a great event to purchase used books at a great price.

Dates: December 6-15, 2024

12/6-12/13 (book and bag sales)

12/14-12/15 (bag sale only)

Hours: Same as library hours

The sale offers discounted prices from our normal used book pricing. We also have a wide variety of cds and dvd/blue ray available. Friend's members will receive additional discounts when they purchase a bag of books.

If you are heading south for the winter before our holiday sale, stock up on books for the winter from our used bookstore area in the library, open during regular library hours.



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING AT ADA PARK

Ada Township residents may drop off Christmas Trees for recycling to the back parking lot of Ada Township Park from December 26, 2024 through January 13, 2025, between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The trees will be recycled into wood chips. Please remove any decorations, wires, strings, ribbons or other items from the trees that might interfere with a chipper.

Residential Christmas trees only – no yard waste, trimmings, wreaths or commercial businesses drop-off.



TOWNSHIP

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

CALENDAR (2024-2025) WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER

- 3 Zoning Board of Appeals — 4:30P
- 9 Downtown Development Authority — 8A
- 9 Ada Township Board Meeting — 7P
- 10 Board of Review — 8A
- 12 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting — 3P
- 19 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting — 8:30A
- 19 Planning Commission — 5:30P
- 23 Ada Township Board Meeting — 7P
- 24 Christmas Holiday**
— Township Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Holiday**
— Township Office Closed
- 31 New Year's Holiday**
— Township Office Closed

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Holiday**
— Township Office Closed
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals — 4:30P
- 11 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting — 3P
- 13 Downtown Development Authority — 8A
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting — 7P
- 16 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting — 8:30A

- 16 Planning Commission — 5:30P
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
— Township Office Closed
- 27 Ada Township Board Meeting — 7P

FEBRUARY

- 4 Zoning Board of Appeals — 4:30P
- 10 Downtown Development Authority — 8A
- 10 Ada Township Board Meeting — 7P
- 13 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting — 3P
- 14 TAX PAYMENTS DUE @
ADA TOWNSHIP OFFICE BY 5P
- 17 President's Day**
— Township Office Closed
- 20 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting — 8:30A
- 20 Planning Commission — 5:30P
- 24 Ada Township Board Meeting — 7P

Like our new format or
want your AdaView via
emailed? Let us know:
info@adamichigan.org

**WAYS TO
CONNECT WITH
US**

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

-  adatownshipmi.com
-  [@adavillage](https://www.instagram.com/adavillage)
-  [Ada Village](https://www.facebook.com/AdaVillage)
-  [company/ada-township](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ada-township)