Volume 23 Issue 45

Adaview is published by Ada Township

Fall 2006

A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit."



Inside this Issue:

Note from the Supervisor Note from the Clerk Note from the Treasurer Ada Historical Society Halloween Tips and more . . .

HALLOWEEN

Fire Station #1 Fulton & Bronson ST Tuesday • October 31st 6PM-9PM Free Cider • Candy • Apples & Entertainment



FALL CLEAN UP!

The Ada and Cascade Township "Clean Up your Act!" day will be Saturday, Oct. 28th, 2006 at the Kent County Road Commission on Fase St. 8 AM-3PM. Please remember you must live within Ada or Cascade Township to drop off any trash, household items or yard waste.

Sorry No Tires or Toxins accepted.

If you have any questions about items that are disposable on this day please contact the Clerk's office at 676-9191 or the Park Office at 676-0520...

**** All Your Secure Documents will be shred on site at no cost by *Shred Doc*! The Salvation Army will have a truck for your gently used clothes, household goods, furniture, etc...

Ada Council for the Arts First Annual AUTUMN ARTS FESTIVAL

Please join the Ada Council for the Arts at our First Annual AUTUMN ARTS FESTIVAL, to be held Sunday, October 15th, from 5:00-8:00pm, at the Thornapple Daily Grille.

The Ada Council for the Arts will be providing live entertainment for your listening pleasure, FREE chili, brats, chips, cider and more! The event is open to the public, and it is our most sincere wish that the AUTUMN ARTS FESTIVAL be an annual community event and that it may entice new members to join our cause: keeping the arts alive in ADA!!

As well as food, music, and great brews from Bell's Brewery, there will be an art exhibit featuring prominent local artists. Andy Rent from 100.5 FM will be conducting our LIVE AUCTION...and we are looking for items to be donated to make the auctions a huge success.

Mark your calendar-October 15th, from 5:00-8:00pm!

Looking forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions please e-mail jmlafontaine@comcast.net

The Ada Hotel: A History of Hospitality

By Nina Harrington

Built before 1870, the Ada Hotel was a center of local social activity. Located on the corner of Ada Drive and Thornapple River Drive, the hotel burned in 1942. Peninsular Oil and Gas offices now occupy the site.

Originally known as the Ada House, Leroy Lamphear sold the hotel to Homer Watters in 1870, who ran it until 1874. It was sold again in 1875 to Henry Smith, cousin of Ada Smith, for whom Ada was named. On Thanksgiving Eve, November 25, 1903, a new owner, Theodore "Pete" Lampert, held a Grand Opening Ball. Pete would own the hotel until 1937.

According to Robert Lewis, grandson of Pete

Museum Hours

Friday-Saturday-Sunday 1PM-4PM Otherwise by appointment 676-9346

Save this Date

Debra Muller Oct. 24th, 2006 7:00 PM Speaker: Native American Culture Averill Historical Museum 7144 Headley SE Ada MI 49301 Lampert, the hotel had about eight rooms for rent. There was a grand ballroom upstairs, and downstairs was a saloon and living quarters for Mr. and Mrs. Lampert.

Mr. Lewis would spend summers at the hotel. He remembers vividly the day the sheriff stopped at the hotel looking for some men who had robbed a

bank in Grand Rapids. The robbers had killed a policeman in Lowell who had tried to intercept them. The sheriff told them that they believed the robbers to be members of the Purple Gang from Detroit. Imagine the excitement this caused in the saloon!

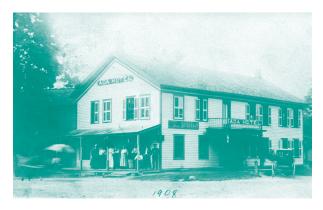
Doris Richardson Marks, who grew up next door to the hotel (in what later became the Coach Stop Restaurant), remembers horses belonging to hotel patrons put up in the stable on their property.

Floyd Chaffee recalled as a youngster being put to bed, along with his sister, in a side room at the hotel while his parents attended dances.

Prohibition (1919 to 1932) took a bite out of business. During part of this time it was known as the Rainbow Inn, and the owner, A.G. Aldrich, ran a cardroom for local folks and served light lunches. Louis Peters also ran a barber shop in a side room of the hotel.

While the advent of the automobile also hurt the hotel's overnight guest business, it made the hotel a destination for regional travel as a fine restaurant.

In 1937, Curtis Lock purchased the hotel, renamed it Lock's Ada Hotel, and began a successful fine dining and dancing establishment. Patrons would travel "out to Ada" for an evening of good food and entertainment. The menu offered Russian caviar (\$1.25),



genuine turtle soup with sherry (\$.40), popular beer (\$.20), Pabst Blue Ribbon (\$.25), Bass Ale and Guinness Stout (\$.60). "Long drinks" included Gin Buck, Cuba Libre, Gin Rickey and Mint Julep.

Mr. Lock also proudly offered "The Novachord, representing the world's newest, most versatile musical instrument (which) was installed solely for the pleasure and enjoyment of our patrons. Your requests are invited and will be played in rotation as received." Lock's was a family restaurant, and Mr. Lock clearly worked hard at building his clientele and reputation. A newspaper article of the time noted the "staff of competent, refined girls (who) render prompt and efficient service." A large neon arrow on M-21 pointed directly to the hotel.

The hotel gained notoriety by Mrs. Lock's cheesecake, which won them a listing in Duncan Hines "Adventures in Good Eating," a national dining and travel guide.

Tragedy struck in 1942 when an oil burner exploded in the basement of the hotel, critically injuring Mr. Lock and starting a fire. Both the Lowell and Godwin Heights fire departments responded to the blaze, pulling water from the Thornapple River to fight the fire. The hotel was a complete loss. It was razed, and the current building on the site was erected in 1948 as the Ada Township Office.



News from the Parks Department

It has been a busy summer within the Parks Department. First, we'd like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped renew the millage proposal in August. These funds are used to operate and maintain your Township Parks.

For those of you that have been following our "pike tales", the large pike that inhabited the ponds at Ada Park was finally



caught on June 22 by resident Bob Miller (photo left). The fish, which had been eating a lot of bluegill and bass over the past three years, was 33" length! in After the big, bad pike was caught we restocked the pond with

bluegill, bass and catfish. As a reminder, fishing in the park ponds is limited to those persons with a physical challenge or children under the age of 12 or over age 65.

Many area residents participated in the summer programs, tennis lessons and softball leagues that were held at Ada Park over the summer. Everyone had a great time. If you are interested in participating next year, you need to start planning softball in February (team registrations are due in March), tennis registration will start up in April and the brochure of summer programs will be out in May. Watch future Adaview newsletters and the local newspapers for details.

Update of Recreation Plan in Progress

The current Recreation Plan for the Township will be expiring in February of 2007. We are seeking your help to update the plan. Enclosed in this issue of the Adaview is a public input survey that we would like you to fill out and return to us. You can either fold it up and drop it in the mail or bring it in to us at the Township Hall or the Parks Department office (located at Ada Park). The Recreation Plan details projects and improvements for the next five years based on public opinion and the recommendation of the Parks Committee. The Plan is filed with the State's Department of Natural Resources and it is a requirement to have a Plan in order to qualify for grant funding from the State. Recently the Township received a grant from the State to start the first phase of development at Roselle Park. In the past grants were received to make improvements to the parking areas at Ada Park (2001) and to install playground equipment and a soccer field (1990's).

Park Committee Members Have Been Busy

For the past year and a half members of the Park Committee have been working to complete a Strategic Plan for the Parks Department. The first step in this process was to come up with a Mission Statement. The following Mission Statement was adopted by the Park Committee in October 2005:

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

Once the mission statement was completed, the group set about establishing goals, of which there are 14. Members then determined the objectives needed to achieve the goals. The last phase in the planning process, which we will be discussing at the next meeting, is to develop a strategy for achieving the goals.

It has been a long process, but this plan will provide a valuable tool for the community. We will let you know as soon as the entire document is complete so you can check it out. If you have any questions about the Strategic Plan, you may contact Clerk Deb Millhuff, Park Committee Chair at 676-9191 ext. #21.

Roselle Park Update

You may have noticed a few changes occurring out at Roselle Park (1010 Grand River Drive NE). The block garage building was torn down when it was discovered it would take twice as much money to rehab the structure than to build a new one. In order to provide a shelter for program participants and a place to warm up for winter hikers and skiers, a small warming shed was placed at the entrance. This building will work as an orientation center as well. Watch for it to be staffed on the weekends in the near future.

The wetland restoration project was completed in August. If you haven't been hiking out at Roselle Park in a while, the terrain will look much different now. In the past the wetland areas had tile placed in them to drain the land in order to make it suitable for crops and pasturing cows. In order to restore the wetlands the drain tiles had to be removed. A lot of dirt was moved around in this project and some of the low areas were dug a little deeper to hold more water. The native grasses that were planted are just beginning to grow now, but with the dry conditions we've had this summer, it will be a while before there is water standing in the low areas. We're anxious for the wetlands to start attracting even more wildlife to this property. Once the native grasses are mature and the low areas filling with water, it will attract a wide variety of migrating waterfowl. This project was completed through the cooperation of a lot of organizations. The following is a list of participants and what they contributed.

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service - \$12,000 Ducks Unlimited - \$4,500 West Michigan Wetlands Foundation - \$3,000 Ada Township - \$2,850 Mac Bay - \$2,500 Pheasants Forever - \$1,100 Donated in-kind services - \$26,000

We've finally gotten the okay from the State to begin work on the first phase of development at Roselle. This phase will consist of paving of 1.5 miles of trail, con-

(Continued on page 4)



News from the Parks Department

(Continued from page 3)

struction of a river overlook deck and canoe landing area, and improvements to parking and the trail head area. The Township has hired O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates (the company that developed the original master plan for the park) to draw up the specifications for the project. These will be going out for bidders soon and we hope that work will begin yet this fall. Of course, a lot of the work will be dependent on Mother Nature. There may be times when the park will need to remain closed due to trail construction. It will be posted when the trails are closed. Thanks for your understanding as we work to get this park's development underway.

On Saturday, October 7th there will be a guided hike of Roselle Park at 1:00 p.m. Participants meet at the warming shed for a brief orientation before heading out on the trails. Guides will explain what the future holds for the property and point out interesting flora and ecosystems on the site. Please wear supportive hiking shoes, as the terrain can be rough (not suitable for strollers!) Bring binoculars and field guides with you and wearing insect repellent and sunscreen is advised. No registration is required. Severe weather will cancel this hike.

Open Scrapbooking Returns

Beginning September 20th (and running until the end of October), the Les Craig Learning Center located at Ada Park will be open from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings for those of you wishing to get some scrapbooking done without interruption. We have large tables and bright lights that make crafting much easier. We'll provide the space; you provide your own supplies & tools. This is a great way to make new friends and get scrapbook ideas from others.

Bulb & Perennial Exchange to be Held

Was your garden a little overgrown this summer? Tired of looking at the same old flowers all of the time? Ada Park has the

solution for you. On Saturday, October 7th from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. the Township will host a bulb, seed and perennial exchange at the Parks Department Garage located at Ada Park (parking lot behind the softball fields). Participants bring plants, bulbs and seeds from their gardens to exchange with others that do the same. Master gardeners are usually on hand to help identify plants, so even if you don't know what type of plants you have you can bring them in. So dig up those daylilies that are taking over your flowerbed and harvest your primrose seed and head over to Ada Park on October 7th. You might take home iris, butterfly weed seed or grape hyacinth bulbs to help beautify your yard. After the long winter months, spring will bring a pleasant surprise as you view your "new" gardens. For additional information regarding the exchange, contact Wendy Tatar at 676-0520.

Holiday Wreath Making

You don't have to be Martha Stewart to make your own holiday decorations. Some of them are actually quite easy to do. Your Parks Department will provide the opportunity for adults to learn how to make a variety of decorations to adorn vour home. On Tuesday, November 28th at 6:30 p.m. or on Wednesday, November 29th at 10:00 a.m. a class on making fresh evergreen wreaths will be held. Each participant will use fresh greens, a 10-inch wreath form, cones and decorative ribbon to create a stunning wreath to adorn their door. Participants should bring a pair of pruning shears and work gloves, if available. The cost to participate in this class is \$10 for Ada Township residents and \$15 for non-residents.

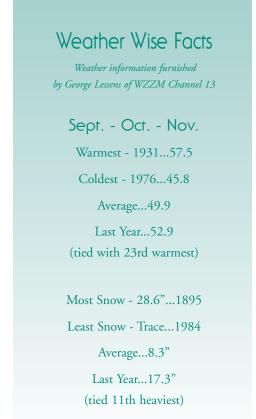
On Wednesday, November 29th at 6:30 p.m. a class to make a Victorian kissing ball and topiary will be held. Back in the late 1800's the high styled Victorians decorated their tables with holiday topiary and hanging in their hallways were kissing balls. The cost to participate in this class is \$12 for residents and \$18 for non-residents.

Neither of those ideas suitable to your decorating scheme? On Thursday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. we will hold a class to create a winter wreath. We'll be using craft items to create a white and silver wreath that you will want to leave up long after the holidays are gone. The cost to participate in this class is \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents.

Registration is required for all of these classes and can be done by calling the Parks Department office at 676-0520. Class size is limited so register early. Due to the nature of these activities, please leave your children at home.

Attention: Master Gardeners

The Township Parks Department is looking for some volunteers that would take on redesigning and cleaning out several small gardens at Ada Park. Some of these gardens have been taken over by day lilies, others have bushes that are past their prime and need replacing. Any help would be appreciated. Contact Wendy Tatar at 676-0520 if you can help.



From the Assessor's Desk

Inform the Assessor of your Mailing Address Updates

Please contact our offices within thirty (30) days after a change of address occurs to update your information. The assessor's office provides all entities with correct property and mailing addresses. Correct address information will reduce the postage costs involved in notifying you of changes, news, tax bills, and ensure proper delivery of your assessment change notices (delivered annually in March) and your July 1 and December 1 tax bills.

The information needed includes: Property Owner's Name, Property Address, old mailing address; moreover, the new mailing address. Please help to by making sure that you have provided in writing an address change request to: Ada Township Assessor, PO Box 370, Ada, MI 49301.

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

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

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

Field Inspections

Ada Township Assessor's Office will be working on all open building permits prior to 2005; as well as, those permits pulled for new construction since January 1 of 2006. Matthew SmithCMAE II Township Appraiser will be performing a majority of these inspections.

Our offices will be performing field review inspections as a result of the conversion from a DOS versioned Assessment Database to a Windows Assessment Valuation program. These individual reviews involve: collecting a digital photo, review of land values, Style of dwelling definitions, interpretation of building data on paper record cards to a sketching program; and a valuation review.

December Board of Review

Ada Township December Board of Review will be meeting on December 12, 2006 to hear petitions for late filed Principal Residence Exemptions for owners that owned and occupied prior to May 1 of the tax year they are seeking the exemption for a current year plus up to three years prior. Hardship Applications will be also be available for the 2006 tax year for individuals that meet the income requirements for this exemption.

Property owners' whom have submitted documents for the December Board of Review regarding these matters will receive their Winter tax bill, sent out December 1, 2006; upon the granting of the petition at the December Board of Review meeting on December 12, 2006, a revised tax bill will be sent to you.

Granting of petitions for years prior to 2006 will be sent to the Kent County Treasurer's office. A revised tax bill or refund for over-payment of tax will be sent by their office.

Application and guidelines for Hardship are available at the Ada Township Assessor's office.

Applications for Principal Residence Exemption are available on line at: HYPERLINK "http://www.ada.mi.us" www.ada.mi.us on the red tool bar, select: Assessing/Tax, Search for your street and click on the GO button. Select your address and click the GO button. The online form is titled HYPERLINK "http://www.addorio.com/Ada/Forms/2368f_2605_7.pdf" \t "_blank" 2368, Affidavit for Homestead Exemption . You may also contact our offices for a copy of this form to be sent to you by US mail.

NOTICE ADA TOWNSHIP DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The Ada Township Board of Review will meet to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact relative to correcting assessment figures, due to situations involving hardship exemptions, homestead exemptions, and qualified agricultural exemptions. All other disputes are to be considered by the March Board of Review. The December Board of Review open session will be held at the Ada Township offices, 7330 Thornapple River Road, Ada, MI 49301 as follows:

Tuesday, DECEMBER 12, 2006 - From 9:00am to 10:00am

Property Owners requesting applications for principal residence exemption (copy of your current Drivers License submitted with your occupancy documentation), qualified agricultural, and hardship exemptions must be received by the Assessor's office prior to Friday, DECEMBER 8, 2006 @ 5:00pm. All requests should be submitted to the Assessor's office. The office number is (616)676-9191x 26 or 32.

HAVE A SAFE HALLOWEEN!

Halloween Safety Tips for Kids

- Purchase or make a costume that will be safe for your child
- If you set jack-o-lanterns on you porch with candles, make sure that they are located out of the way of your visitors so costumes won't accidentally be set on fire
- If your child is carrying a prop, make sure the tips are smooth and flexible so not to cause injury if fallen on
- Small children shouldn't be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face of a Jack-O- Lantern
- Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them

Halloween Safety Tips for Adults

- Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them
- The best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them
- Know what other activities a child may be attending
- Make sure you set a time that they should be home by
- Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism
- Explain to your kids that animal cruelty is not acceptable

THE ADA VIEW

The Bailey Monster told by DLEM

The tale of the bailey monster has been passed down through generations of Ada Township residents ... the story is one of an unsolved mystery....

The story goes that through the fog and mist of the marshes in the northern section of Ada, Michigan it is not unlikely to hear a faint scream or moan... some say you will even hear what sounds like a long curdling cry of pain. Over the years various reports from residents, hunters and hikers have stated seeing a large manlike figure at least 6 foot rise from the swamps and bogs along Bailey and McCabe and disappear as quickly as it had appeared.

As the legend tells it sometime in the 19th Century a large burly man with dark eyes and dark hair owned a farm in the northern section of the township, he could be antagonistic at times and as it is told, he played as hard as he worked.

It was not unlike the Farmer to load up his wagon with his Foreman and head south along the rocky road into "town" on a Saturday for what often became a very long night of poker and homemade beer in the modest, but well stocked bar of the Ada Hotel.

The legend states on the night of the Full Harvest Moon he and his Foreman got home around 3AM after a very long night of poker where the Farmer had lost more then he had in his pocket to the Foreman. When they arrived home the Foreman went to his sleeping quarters attached to the tack room off the main barn and the Farmer fell into his comfortable feather bed instantly falling asleep. The Farmer awoke in a startle by the sound of the front door being kicked in, and before the Farmer could get out of bed he was staring at the red face of his Foreman demanding the Farmer pay him his winnings from the poker game now!

The Farmer at first tries to explain he would get the money first thing Monday morning when they took the crop to town. The Foreman was in no mood for excuses and continued demanding what was owed him. By this time the Farmer was angry and told the Foreman to leave his home and his property. The Foreman left but returned within minutes with his shotgun and large hunting knife. The Farmer was never seen again, no body was ever found. Therefore, no charges against the Foreman were ever brought.

No body found ... No crime committed?

When the Farmers Last Will and Testament was read all of his possessions and property were left to the Foreman he had also called his friend. Five years later on the night of the Harvest Moon the Foreman was found drowned... on the front porch of what had been the Farmers home prior to his disappearance. The home was 150 yards from the marshes but still the Foreman laid dead with water and debris from the marsh still in his mouth. This too was strange because everyone knew that ever since the Farmer had disappeared the Foreman refused to approach the marshes during the day... much less in the middle of the night.

The Foreman had lost all his money and sold all the livestock he inherited upon the Farmers disappearance to pay his own poker debts, he was buried in an unmarked pau-

G

per's grave with no one but the undertaker and his assistant to lay him to rest. However, as the locals tell it, to this day on the night of the full Harvest Moon the Bailey Monster rises from the swampy water only to disappear without a trace.

Leaving this question ... so now even in death is it the Farmer or the Foreman who's debt is still not paid?

A Note from the Clerk

Tuesday November 7, 2006

DON'T FORGET TO CAST YOUR VOTE !!



The Polls will open at 7AM and close at 8PM on Election Day.

Remember if you will be out of town, if you are over 60, if you are unable to get to the polls due to health reasons or work. You may vote by casting an Absentee Ballot.

To receive an Absentee Ballot all you need to do is:

Contact the local Clerk's Office by phone, (616) 676-9191 M-F 8AM-5PM, in person or by written correspondence or download the application at www.ada.mi.us.

Complete the application mailed to you by the Clerk, Deputy Clerk or an agent of the Clerk by either mailing or returning the application in person.

Your ballot will be issued and mailed as soon as the Clerks Office receives them (the law states the Clerk will receive the ballots from the county by 9/23/06 for this election)

You may receive an application and ballot for mailing until 2PM Saturday November 4th, 2006 or you may vote in person at the Clerk's office until 4PM on Monday November 6th.

After 4PM on the day before the election only emergency absentee ballots can be issued

You may register to vote at your local Clerks Office or the Secretary of States Office during regular scheduled business hours.

To Vote in the November 2006 Election you need to register by Tuesday October 10th, 2006

If you have any questions please contact: Township Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff, CMC Certified Municipal Clerk State Certified Elections Administrator 616-676-9191 ext: 21 millhuff@ada.mi.us

A Note from the Treasurer

- Leaf bags are available at the treasurer's offices for 50 cents each and free to those 60 and over.
- The 2007 dog licenses will be available the first week of December through March 1st. Please provide an updated immunization form and proof of alteration (where applicable) when purchasing the licenses.
- Winter tax bills will be mailed out the first week of December and are due by February 14, 2007, 5:00PM. If you have any questions regarding your taxes contact the treasurer's office at (616) 676-9191 ext: 23 or 27.

If you have any questions please contact:

Treasurer Diane Pratt pratt@ada.mi.us or Deputy Treasurer Gina deputytreas@ada.mi.us





Help Shape the Future of Ada Village!

What would you like to preserve, enhance or transform in the Village of Ada?

Get involved in the Ada Village Design Charrette! Starting on October 3rd, Ada Township will be conducting Part One of the Ada Village Design Charrette an intensive, week-long, open public work session to create a design plan for the future. This will be a collaborative process involving a multidisciplinary team of consultants, Ada officials and staff, and members of the public. It will be an exciting, rigorous, and swift-moving process, and your participation is vital. At the end of the process, Ada Village will have a set of design guidelines to direct the scale and character of future development and enhance existing neighborhoods within the Village.

The Charrette will be headquartered at the Charrette Studio in the heart of the Village, at 583 Ada Dr. Come to one of the three major public events described below, or just drop in to the Charrette Studio at any time from Tuesday through Friday to see the activity and talk to the Charrette planners. For further details, call 676-9191, Ext. 31, or visit www.adatownship.org.

Charrette Public Event Schedule:

Tuesday, October 3: Opening Presentation and Facilitated Public Input, 6:30 p.m., Multipurpose Room, Ada Elementary School, 731 Ada Dr. SE Thursday, October 5: Public Open House, 6-9 p.m., Charrette Studio, 583 Ada Dr. Monday, October 9: Presentation of Preliminary Results, 5-7 p.m., Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr. SE

Part Two of the Charrette process will include a shorter series of public meetings to be held on two days at the end of October.

Charrette – French for "cart," referring to art and architecture instructors' use of a cart to collect students' work in the 19th century.

Publication Notes . . .

AdaView is published by Ada Township Board 7330 Thornapple River Drive SE P.O. Box 370 Ada, Michigan 49301 Telephone: 616-676-9191 www.ada.mi.us Hours: Monday - Friday 8 am to 5 pm Closed Holidays

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Printed by Falcon Printing 616-676-3737

ADA HAPPENINGS

Announcing Forest Hills Fine Arts Center 2006-2007 Performance Season

The third season of professional performances offers an impressive combination world-class music, comedy and acrobatics. Along with six evenings of big-name, big-city entertainment, we are excited to offer season subscribers additional benefits this year. Call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 493.8966 to order your 2006-2007 season tickets and get the best seats in the house!

October 2006

Comedian Jim Gaffigan opens the year with his acclaimed stand-up performance on Saturday, October 28, 2006. Gaffigan's clever, quiet style has earned him numerous appearances on both the "Late Show With David Letterman" and "Late Night With Conan O'Brien." His half-hour comedy special is one of the highest-rated stand-up specials on Comedy Central.

December 2006

Celebrate the holidays with "A Manhattan Transfer" Christmas, coming to the Fine Arts Center on Thursday, December 7, 2006.

January 2007

American classic "Art Garfunkel" is in concert on Tuesday, January 23, 2007. Although it has been more than 30 years since Bridge Over Troubled Water was recorded, Art Garfunkel's image and signature voice remain among the most instantly recognizable in popular music.

February 2007

On Thursday, February 8, 2007, United Bank

presents "The David Sanborn Group". Veteran alto sax master David Sanborn has played a crucial role in contemporary jazz and instrumental pop. In his remarkable three-and-a-half decade recording and performing career, Sanborn has revealed a distinctive sound while building an impressive resume that includes work with everyone from Gil Evans to Bruce Springsteen.

March 2007

Birdhouse Factory combines circus acrobatics and early 20th century machines to tell a story of laughter, love, flight and birdhouses on Saturday, March 3, 2007. Inspired in part by Detroit industry murals and Charlie Chaplin, this show blends mechanics and art as the international cast creatively depicts factory life in a spectacle that is sure to amaze the audience.

The Forest Hills Fine Arts Center presents a brand new performance from "Mannheim Steamroller" on Tuesday, March 20, 2007. Experience groundbreaking music that is an innovative blend of classical themes with pop elements referred to as "18th century rock and roll." Mannheim Steamroller has captured the hearts and imaginations of millions worldwide and raised the bar for audio and video production standards.

616-456-3333 or at www.ticketmaster.com. For more information call 616-493-8966. Meggan George, Event Services Coordinator, FHPS Fine Arts Center

HOW ARE WE DOING?

The Ada Township Board and staff are always interested in your comments and ideas. Please, contact us at the Ada Township Hall 7330 Thornapple River Drive PO Box 370 Ada MI 49301 or by accessing our web site at www.ada.mi.us, we are very interested in what you have to say so please do not hesitate to share your concerns and/or ideas.

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM (616) 676-9191