

THE ADAVIEW

Your Claim Your Fame!

The Community Media Center celebrates its 23rd anniversary 12th year of filming the Ada Township Independence Day Parade, which will be filmed and aired on GRTV channel 25, which is a department of the Community Media Center, located at 711 Bridge St SW.

Stop by the Ada Township Hall (Bronson Street) during the parade or by the Mobil Media Truck on the green to claim a few of your 15 minutes of fame.

If you are interested in being a part of the Lights, Camera and Action next year contact the Media Center at 459-4788 to find out how.

You may access your parade

★ participation form at:
www.ada.mi.us or contact

Ada Township Clerk:

Deb Ensing Millhuff

676-9191 ext: 0

Or via e-mail at
millhuff@ada.mi.us

Celebrate Your Independence!

Ada Township will celebrate Independence Day on Tuesday July 4th, 2006.

Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration!

**Fireworks at dusk on Monday
July 3rd, 2006**

Forest Hills Central HS

Tuesday July 4th, 2006 Schedule

7-9:30 AM... Fireman's Pancake Breakfast

8:00AM ... Thornapple Lion's Annual Flea Market

9:30 AM... Parade Line-up

10:00 AM... PARADE BEGINS

Grand Marshall:

The Family of Major Gregory Fester of the US Army

10:30 AM—3PM... New Games, New Rides, Virtual Pictures, Arts and Crafts, Live Music, Family Fun Tent and much, much more!

Noon-12: 30PM... Classic Car Show Award

All Parade Floats are judged for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Best of Show!

NEW RIDES! NEW ART!

LIVE MUSIC!

FUN FOR FAMILY!

In the Image

Will have a donation truck available for gently used clothing, furniture and small appliances for families in need.

★ 4th of July Schedule

Parade

Celebration on the Green

Free Virtual Pictures

Free Rides and Games

Music

Food

Fireworks Monday July 3rd

Many Thanks to those who make this Celebration possible!

Ada Township 4th of July Committee Members

Ada Bible Church

Ada Christian Reform Church

In the Image

Thornwood Baptist Church

Unity Church of Peace

Mr Timothy Pratt

Community Media Center

and all of our Sponsor's who make the celebration possible!

Help Keep Ada Park Clean

By: *Matt Francis*

6th Grade Goodwillie Environmental School

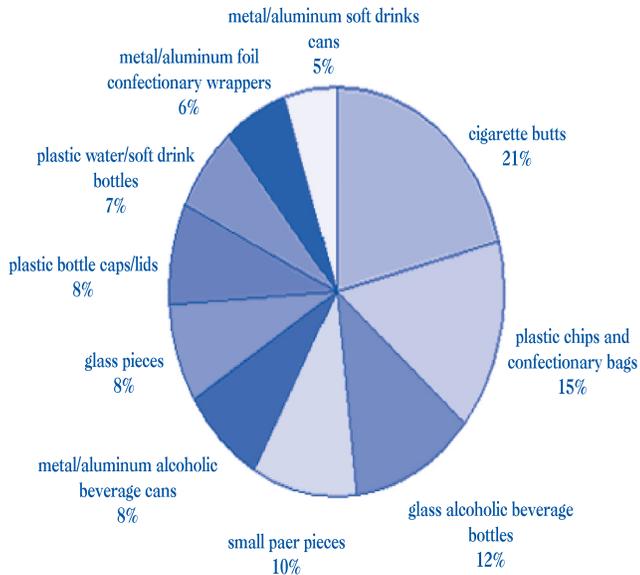
Cigarettes:

- Over 32 billion cigarette butts are discarded each year. If placed end to end they would extend 640,000 kilometers and circle the planet 16 times.
- In general cigarette butts make up 50% of litter.
- If all the butts of cigarettes went to landfill there would be approximately 13,000 cubic meters of solid waste.
- An estimated 100,000 tons of polluted air is exhaled by smokers in NSW each year.
- Cigarette butts take up to 5 years to break down.

Litter is an environmental priority because it:

- Reduces the aesthetic appeal of public places including streets, parks and waterways.
- Kills aquatic life directly (e.g. through choking) and indirectly through its impacts on water quality.
- Causes blockages of the drainage system and flooding (costing councils millions of dollars to repair).
- Endangers people particularly when it involves items such

The graph and picture show the types of Trash found in Ada Park on April 15, 2006



as broken glass, needles and syringes.

- Creates Fire hazards (lit cigarettes being thrown from vehicles or stomped out).
- Costs the community huge sums of money to clean up every year.
- Decrease oxygen levels when it decays in water.

Littering offences and fines:

- Littering with small items - \$60
- Littering with an unlit cigarette or extinguished cigarette butt (excluding from a vehicle) - \$60
- Littering with a lit cigarette (excluding from a vehicle) - \$200
- General littering - \$200 (individuals) / \$400 (corporations)
- Littering from vehicles (any litter) - \$200 (individuals) / \$400 (corporations)
- Aggravated littering which threatens public safety or the environment, such as intentionally breaking glass - \$375 (individuals) / \$750 (corporations)
- Depositing advertising material in a place or on a vehicle - \$200 (individuals) / \$400 (corporations)



HEIRLOOM QUILT DISPLAY
 Friendship, Patchwork, and others
 ITEMS MADE FROM FEED SACKS
 July 4, 2006
 at
 AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF ADA
 7144 Headley St.
 Ada
 Ada Historical Society


Music on the Lawn
 Presented in partnership with the Ada Historical Society
 and the Ada Township Board

<p>Averill Historical Museum Ada 7:00 PM 7144 Headley St (Across from Post Office) Mark Your Calendar No Admission</p> <p>Tuesday July 11th Luke Lenhart, family & friends Blue Grass</p> <p>Tuesday July 18th Apple Country Dulcimers</p> <p>Tuesday August 8th Arganik Alternative Folk & Rock</p>	<p>Tuesday August 15th Ancesa Amari Cabaret style music</p> <p>Tuesday August 29th Java Jive Dance standards of the 30's & 40's</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENT Saturday August 19th New Horizons Swing Band</p>
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News from the Parks Department

Summer is well under way and it's another busy year in the Parks Department. The softball leagues are winding down their season already. Tennis lessons and camps are just starting out. Dates are going fast for shelter and gazebo reservations.

The summer brochure is out and programs have gotten underway but there are still plenty of camps and activities to take part in. If you haven't seen the brochure yet, one can be obtained at the Township Hall or the Park Office (located at Ada Park). The program is also available as a PDF file on the Township's website. If you can't make it to us to get one and you don't have access to the website, call us at 676-0520 and we'll drop one in the mail to you.

Enjoy your summer and we hope to see you in the parks!

Adult Beginning Tennis on Wednesday Evenings



For the first time we are going to offer beginning tennis lessons for adults. If you've ever wanted to learn how to play this sport, this will be a great opportunity for you. Beginning July 12th we'll meet for an hour, starting at 7:00 p.m., for seven weeks. The last class will be held on August 23rd. The seven lessons will cost \$50 for Ada Township residents and \$60 for non-residents. Payment must be received prior to the first night of lessons. Participants need to provide their own racket.

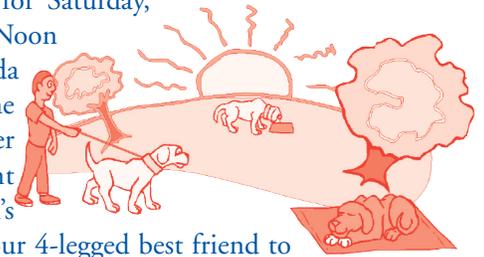
Special Saturday Program

On Saturday, July 15th naturalist Greg Swanson will introduce us to dragonflies and damselflies in an interactive program called Flying Jewels of the Wetlands. Greg's introduction to these fascinating insects will start at 10:30 a.m. in the Les Craig Learning

Center located at Ada Park. Then we'll head to the prairie and wetlands to see these amazing creatures up close and personal. It will be fun and informative for children of all ages. As space for this program is limited, registration is required. There will be a fee of \$1 per person for Ada Township residents and \$2 for non-residents. Call the park office at 676-0520 to register.

Ada Park Goes to the Dogs

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 19th from Noon until 3:00 p.m., as Ada Park will celebrate the dog days of summer with a special event geared toward man's best friend. Bring your 4-legged best friend to the park to enjoy games and crafts. There will be a "best dressed pooch" contest and a "looks like their master" competition. This free event will be fun for all ages and will be held at the picnic shelter. Dogs must be on a leash – no exceptions. Please remember that Fido needs water in the hot summer weather and bring a container with you for doggie drinks. Rain will cancel the event.



Open Scrapbooking Returns

Beginning September 20th (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.

Natural Features Inventory Underway In ADA

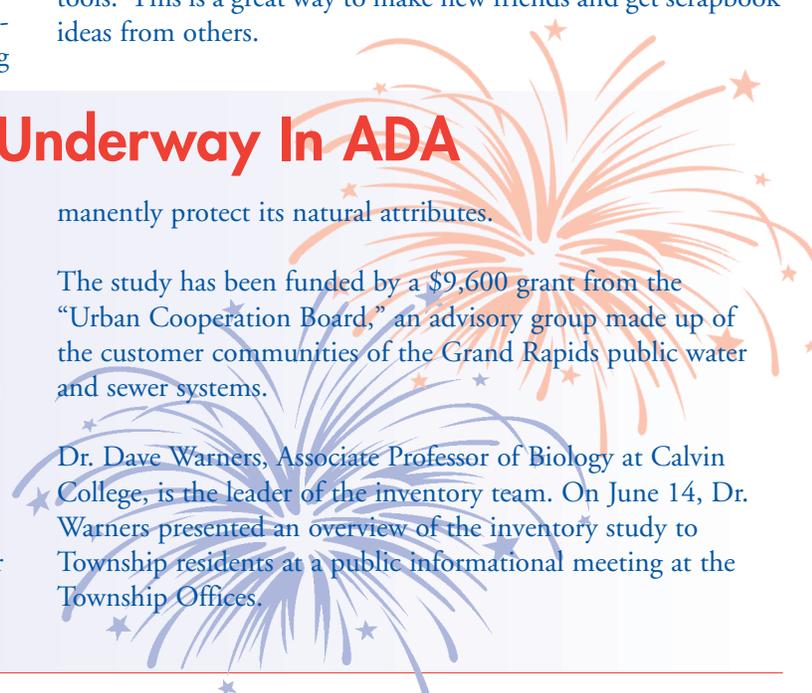
Natural scientists from Calvin College will be spending time in Ada Township this summer, completing an updated inventory of high quality natural sites in the community. The naturalists will be poring over historical aerial photographs and other existing data sources to find the Township's most outstanding natural sites. The owners of high quality natural sites will be contacted for permission to allow an on-site inventory of plant communities to be conducted by the Calvin group.

The information gained from this survey will be used by the Open Space Protection Advisory Board in setting priorities for use of "parks and land preservation" millage funds to acquire important open space land in the community, in order to per-

manently protect its natural attributes.

The study has been funded by a \$9,600 grant from the "Urban Cooperation Board," an advisory group made up of the customer communities of the Grand Rapids public water and sewer systems.

Dr. Dave Warners, Associate Professor of Biology at Calvin College, is the leader of the inventory team. On June 14, Dr. Warners presented an overview of the inventory study to Township residents at a public informational meeting at the Township Offices.



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.

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 Smith-CMAE 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.

JULY BOARD OF REVIEW

Ada Township July Board of Review will be meeting on July 18, 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 owner's whom have submitted documents for the July Board of Review regarding these matters will receive their Summer tax bill, sent out July 1, 2006; upon the granting of the petition at the July Board of Review meeting on July 18, 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 overpayment 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: 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 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 JULY 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, JULY 18, 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, JULY 14, 2006 @ 5:00pm. All requests should be submitted to the Assessor's office. The office number is (616)676-9191x 26 or 32.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVIEWS

Ada Township Assessor's office will be working on neighborhood reviews during the summer of 2006. This will involve an inspection of the property to verify the information contained on your property record card is accurate. You will receive an inspection letter in the mail indicating the dates that the Township Appraiser, Matthew Smith-CMAE III will be in your neighborhood.

The review of the information already contained on your record card does not result in an increase of your property's taxes. Information not already contained on your property card, will result in an increase of property taxes in 2007. Examples of property discovered during the inspections that were not already contained on property record cards: Air conditioning, wood decks, or Lower Level Basement finish.

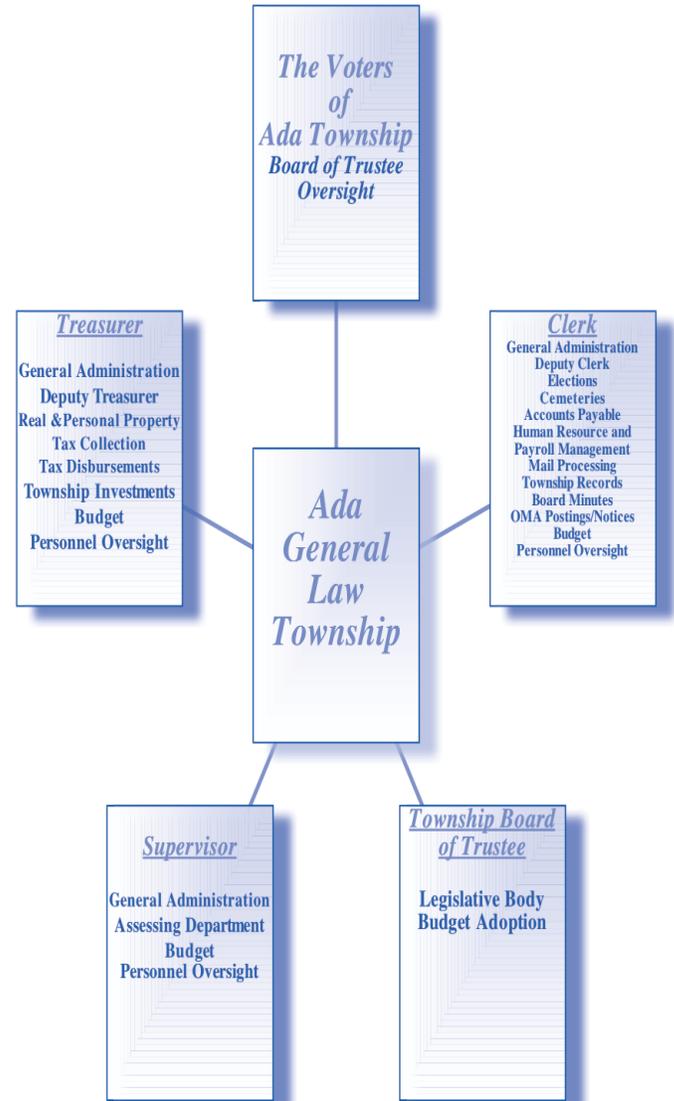
We will be completing the neighborhood reviews by the end of September. Please note, if you have pulled a building permit for new construction in 2005 or 2006, an inspection will be made upon the completion of the permit issued by the building department or an inspection for partial construction will be completed during the year for new value added to the property for the 2007 tax year.

TAX PAYMENT METHODS



Tax bills are scheduled to be mailed out the last week of June. These bills are due by September 14, 2006, 5:00PM. You have several options in paying your bill:

- ◆ As always you may come into the Township offices Monday – Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm except for holidays when the offices are closed. There is a drive-up drop box located at the end of the sidewalk at the Thornapple River Dr entrance to the Township offices.
- ◆ You can now sign up for ACH, which allows the township's bank to deduct payment from you bank. Call our offices for more information. Forms are also available on our website: www.ada.mi.us
- ◆ You can also make payments with a credit card either by phoning (800) 272-9829 or internet at www.officialpayments.com . **CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES.** See the back of tax bill for further instructions. Note: there is a charge made of 3% of your bill by the credit card clearing house.
- ◆ You can mail the bill to our office by using with the enclosed envelope. **REMEMBER THAT POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS DATE RECEIVED. ALL BILLS MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 14, 2006, 5:00 PM**



ATTENTION ADA TOWNSHIP SENIORS AND DISABLED CITIZENS



Please take note: You can apply for a deferment for 2006 summer tax if your household income did not exceed \$37,500 for the preceding calendar year and you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- ◆ You are 62 years of older
- ◆ Paralegic or Quadriplegic
- ◆ Eligible serviceperson, veteran widow or widower
- ◆ Blind person
- ◆ Totally and permanently disabled

You may pick up a form at the Ada Township Treasurer's Office at 7330 Thornapple River Dr. or call (616) 676-9191 ext. 27 or 23 to have a form mailed to you. The form is due September 14, 2006 by 5:00PM. If you had a deferment for 2005 a form will be or already has been mailed to you.

Statutory Duties of a Township Board

The Chart above shows the mandated duties of your township officials.

Each Administrative Department is statutorily separate to ensure proper "checks and balances" to the electorate. Some non-statutory duties for the Administrative Elected Officials (Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer may) vary; however the duties& responsibility are mandated by Michigan Compiled Law.

The Ada Township Board of Trustee's is compiled of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and 4 Trustees; which is the Legislative Body of the township and have an equal vote on legislative issues.

Neighborhood Watch

Area Burglar Apprehended by East Precinct Officers.

During the early months of this year, some of our East Precinct residents fell victim to a daytime home burglar actively working the East Precinct Townships. The suspect, later identified as Brian Scott Barnes, had been approaching homes in the area under the scam of doing chimney repairs, when in reality he was checking to see if the homeowner was at home. If the home was unoccupied, Barnes would enter through an unlocked door or window, and quickly go through the residence, taking anything of value he could carry.

Brian Scott Barnes was apprehended on March 24, 2006, when he was stopped by East Precinct Officers and was found in possession of stolen property from an earlier home invasion from the Ada area. Mr. Barnes was arraigned in 63rd District Court on two counts of home invasions and is currently awaiting his trial.

Like in so many other home invasions, these perpetrators take full advantage of the unsuspecting resident who leave behind an unsecured home with its many valuable items. Most of these individuals are searching for things to steal quickly, then later re-sell, to maintain their ongoing drug habits. Always remember, when leaving for the day or to just run errands, make sure to lock and secure your residence and garage, prior to leaving.

If someone suspicious should come to your door, make sure to contact the Kent County Sheriffs Department at 632-6100, as soon as possible. If it is an emergency, dial 911.

With your help, we can make a difference,
Lt. Bill Weston

BICYCLE SAFETY



Once again summer is back and our children are out of school. Bike riding is one of the most popular activities done each summer. Here are some helpful tips for our children to keep safe while bike riding.

1. Make sure that you write down your bicycle serial number and description
2. Do a daily bike inspection
3. Always stop prior to entering the street from any driveway
4. Ride single file to the right edge of the roadway
5. Walk your bike across major intersections
6. Never ride two persons on one bicycle
7. Never carry any objects in your hands, use a carrying rack or backpack
8. Learn the meaning of traffic signs and follow their instructions
9. It would be best not to ride after dark, but if you do, wear light colored clothes and use a light in your bicycle
10. Be alert for road hazards such as: pot holes, sewer grates, gravel, and trash tossed on the roadway
11. Always walk your bike when traveling on a sidewalk in a shopping area and remember pedestrians have the right of way
12. Always wear a bicycle helmet and protection pads are a good idea for extra protection on knees and elbows
13. Lock your bike when you leave it
14. Respect other persons and their property
15. Always ask for permission before you ride your bike
16. HAVE FUN!

If you have questions, please contact me at any time. Ride safe and have a fun summer.

Deputy Bill Whiting

(616) 632-6436

bill.whiting@kentcounty.org

A Note from the Clerk

Exercise Your Right to Vote!

Tuesday August 8th, 2006 Primary Election!

Polls Open at 7AM

Polls Close 8PM

This Election is a straight party ticket vote and will elect the candidates to appear on the November General Election!

Local Proposals on the Ballot

Renewal Millage

PROPOSITION NUMBER 1

PROPOSITION FOR PARKS AND

RECREATION MILLAGE

Shall the Township levy up to .25 mill (\$.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years beginning in the year 2007 and continuing through the year 2011, inclusive, to provide funds for parks and recreation purposes, including acquiring, constructing, equipping and maintaining land, buildings and other park or recreational facilities, which levy is estimated to raise \$211,467.00 in its first year? This millage is a renewal of the previously authorized .25 mills approved by the voters in 2000, and an increase of .0040 mills.

Renewal Millage

PROPOSITION NO. 2

PROPOSITION FOR POLICE AND FIRE MILLAGE

Shall the Township levy up to 1.00 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years beginning in the year 2007 and continuing through the year 2011, inclusive, to provide funds for police protection within the Township and for maintenance, equipment and operation of the Ada Township Fire Department, which levy is estimated to raise \$845,869.60 in its first year? This millage is a renewal of the millage approved by the voters in 2000, and represents a reduction in the authorized millage from 1.25 mills (rolled back pursuant to the Headlee Amendment) approved by the voters in 2000 to the 1.00 mill requested under this proposal.

Referendum Question

PROPOSITION NO. 2

PROPOSITION FOR POLICE AND FIRE MILLAGE

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Through the Help America Vote Act Ada Township has received new voting equipment!

If you are interested in trying the new equipment please stop in the Township Hall during the month of July between 10AM-4PM Monday-Thursday and you can "practice" voting

If you have any questions regarding the election please contact the Ada Township Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff at:

millhuff@ada.mi.us or go online to www.ada.mi.us!

ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD

MEETING DATES:

(2nd and 4th Mondays of Month - 7:30 p.m.)

July 10

July 24

August 7

August 21

September 11

September 25

October 9

October 23

AGENDA DEADLINE:

(Friday 1 week prior to meeting)

ALL AGENDA ACTION ITEMS TO BE IN BY 12:00 NOON

FRIDAY

July 3

July 17

July 31

August 14

September 4

September 18

October 2

October 16

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

(1st Tuesday of Month - 4:30 P.M.)

**July 11

August 1

September 5

October 3

AGENDA DEADLINE:

(2 weeks prior meeting)

June 27

July 18

August 22

September 19

PLANNING COMMISSION:

(3rd. Thursday of Month-7:30 PM)

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

AGENDA DEADLINE:

(3 weeks prior meeting)

June 29

July 27

August 31

September 28



Photography Contest Planned!

What do Ada, Vergennes, Cascade, Grattan, Lowell, and Cannon Townships have in common? Beautiful natural features!

Historical sites!

Precious open space!

We also have the Eastern Townships Open Space Preservation Committee!

In September 2007, this regional group will have a multi-community photography contest and exhibit to depict what "open space" means to you.

You have four seasons to capture the images of open space in your world that are important to you, so start snapping those photos!

Please share the beauty of our local townships as you see it!

Details are pending – more information to come in a later township newsletter.

Watch this space!



KENT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

SEALCOAT PROGRAM

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
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 Hours:
 Monday - Friday
 8 am to 5 pm
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Printed by
 Falcon Printing
 616-676-3737

Sealcoating of our County roads has been a very productive improvement program for Kent County Road Commission for a number of years. On average, we place sealcoat on approximately 75 miles of County roads each year to extend the life of the road for area motorists. The process is a two-step application of asphalt emulsion and stone. The emulsion serves two functions; one to fill cracks in the pavement, and second to bond the stone to the existing surface. The stone provides a renewed driving surface that increases tire traction and improves stopping distance for added safety.

The sealcoat process allows for quick application and driver access to the roadway. Once the stone is applied and rolled into the emulsion, curing or setting of the asphalt binder begins to take place immediately. Cold and wet weather hampers the curing of the asphalt emulsion and can cause longer delays in traffic or possible failures in the final product.

Kent County Road Commission places "loose stone" signs to inform motorists, pedestrians, and bikers that

a sealcoat has been placed. Adequate stone needs to be placed to insure coverage of the asphalt emulsion to prevent tracking of the emulsion, and to provide a uniform driving surface. Kent County Road Commission will sweep the surface of sealcoated roads to pick up excess loose stone, but not until after the stone has completed the bonding with the emulsion. "Loose stone" signs remain in place until the sweeping phase has been completed.

The cost to place a sealcoat surface is approximately \$25,000.00/mile of two-lane road, and the life expectancy is three to five years depending on the conditions of the existing road. By comparison, a one-course overlay of bituminous asphalt pavement 1.5 inches thick is approximately \$75,000.00 with a life expectancy of eight to ten years.

With declining revenues, our goal is to keep as many miles of County roads in good or fair condition as possible. Using the sealcoat process allows us to improve and protect more miles of road for Kent County motorists with the resources we have available.

Be Weather Wise!

(Furnished by Chief Meteorologist George Lessens WZZM-13)

Summer: June, July, August

Warmest . . . 74.4" 1955
 Coldest . . . 65.5" 1992
 Average . . . 69.3"
 Last Year . . . 72.6"

Average Precipitation 11.01"
 Most Precipitation 22.63" 1994
 Dries 3.08" 1894
 Last Year 12.85"

Average Sunshine 65.0%
 Last Year 77.4%

WEST MICHIGAN EDGE

Monday, July 3 at 7:00 p.m.
 West Michigan Edge
 Vs.

Michigan Bucks
 Forest Hills Central High School
 Premier Development League Men's
 Soccer Game
 Tickets \$5 at the gate

Come See Local Players: Tom Skilling, Jake Stacy, Jeremy Stacy, Kevin VanDenBerg, and Nick Capisciolto Before the Ada Fireworks



PATRIOTS WANTED! Uncle Sam Wants You! (to celebrate his birthday)

The Ada Township 4th of July Committee is looking for a few good men & women!
 Interested in being part of the front-line on Independence Day?

We Need You!

Please contact

Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff
millhuff@ada.mi.us

or

(616) 676-9191 ext: 20 or 21

The West Michigan Edge is currently playing the rest of their 7 games at Forest Hills Central High School Stadium. The West Michigan Edge competes in the United Soccer Leagues "Premier Development League", which is the top U-23 men's league in North America, designed for players who aspire to reach the highest levels of the game. The West Michigan Edge has promoted more than a dozen players to the professional ranks in the last five years, including the MLS.

For more information call (616) 455-8700 or visit edgesoccer.com