

# THE ADAVIEW

"Only You Can Be Yourself... No One Else Qualifies for the Job."



Don't forget  
2AM Sunday November 4th  
Turn your Clocks back!

## Pumpkin Contest at the Museum

Drop off your pre-craved  
Jack-O-Lantern creation  
Tuesday, October 30th  
between 3PM-6PM at the  
Ada Museum Barn  
(across from the Post Office)  
for lighting up and judging  
on Halloween Night.....  
Awards and Recognition for  
the following categories

### Funniest Scariest Most Creative

Entries will be displayed outside  
the museum on October 31st  
and awards presented at 7PM

**FUN! FUN! FUN!**

(Families and children  
12 and under are encouraged  
to participate!)



## Roselle Park Open House

**Sunday  
October 28th  
2-4 PM**

**1010 Grand River DR NE  
(Grand River NE & Michigan)**

Roselle Park is located along the Grand  
River on over 240 acres for nature  
preservation and low impact recreation.  
Walking, Hiking, Biking and  
Nature appreciation.

The public debut will be  
Sunday October 28th, 2007  
2-4 PM

Roselle will feature paved and  
unpaved walking/bike trails, Grand  
River Overlook, Memorial Wildlife  
Bird Observation Deck and a 40 foot  
Observation Tower!

Bring your walking shoes, stick or ride  
one of the bicycles made available for  
use for the day by The Ada Bike Shop!

For further information please contact  
Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff at  
millhuff@ada.mi.us  
or 676-9191 ext: 20



## FALL CLEAN UP!

The bi-annual Ada Township "**Clean Up  
your Act**" day will be Saturday, October  
27th, 2007 at the Kent County Road  
Commission on Fase St. 8 AM-2:30PM.

Please remember you must live within  
Ada or Cascade Township to drop off any  
trash, household items or yard waste. If  
you have any questions about items that  
are disposable on this day please contact  
the clerk's office at 676-9191.

"**In the Image**" will be at the Covered  
Bridge for your gently used clothing,  
furniture and household items.

**Shred Doc** will also be at the Covered  
Bridge to do free "on-site" shredding of  
your sensitive documents.

Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff ... ext: 21  
Deputy Deb ... ext: 20

### FALL CLEANUP DATES

Clean-Up Day: Oct 27  
Curbside: Oct 9 & Nov 13  
(In non-burn area)

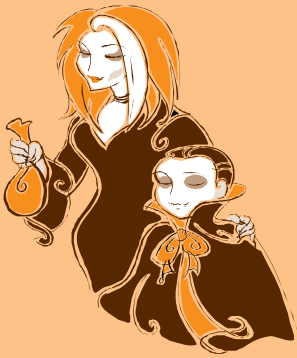
## HALLOWEEN

at the Fire Station  
#1 Fulton & Bronson  
October 31  
6PM-9PM

Free Cider • Candy  
• Apples & Entertainment

**FUN! FUN! FUN!**





## Neighborhood Watch

### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

- Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe.
- If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so kids costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.
- Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.
- Kids always want to help with the pumpkin carving. Small children shouldn't be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face.
- 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.



## Ada Historical Society

Ada Historical Society presents - Larry B. Massie - Sand Dunes, Sawdust & Ship Wrecks: Stories from the Sunset Shore

"Best-selling Michigan author and dynamic storyteller Larry B. Massie's colorful telling of true stories will entertain anyone who's felt the lure of glorious Lake Michigan."

Description: "From New Buffalo beaches to the Strait of Mackinac few of America's beauty spots enjoy as colorful a heritage as Michigan's sunset shore. Ottawa and Potawatomi warriors, people of its past, as well as intrepid explorers, steel-sinewed voyageurs, hardy pioneers, courageous ship captains and rough hewn lumberjacks.

Sand dunes have crept forward to bury ghost towns, passenger pigeons once darkened the skies, and many is the proud vessel that sailed to never return to port.

**Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at the Ada Township Assembly Hall at 7:00 pm**

Presentation to last approx. 1 hour with Q&A and books available for sale to follow.

General Admission Tickets available in advance through the Ada Historical Society during normal hours and at the door: \$2.00 for Ada Historical Society Members; \$5.00 adults 18+ (non-members), children 17 and under FREE (Limited seating available)

Questions please contact:  
adahistoricalociety@gmail.com  
or call 676-9346

Thank you to Ada Township for their support of this event.

*"This activity is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Minigrant program, administered by the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids."*



## Museum Hours

Friday-Saturday-Sunday

1PM-4PM

Otherwise by appointment 676-9346

**Everyone is invited to be a member of the Ada Historical Society and share the rich history of our community. For further information please contact the museum at 676-9346**

# HOW OLD IS MY QUILT?

By Patricia Hubel Boucher

Very few old quilts have been signed and dated by the quiltmaker. Today, as we look at these quilts, we wonder how old they are and who made them. Unless the history comes with the quilt, who made a specific quilt is impossible to determine.

As far as age of the quilt, we can look at the quilt and make an estimate of the date by looking at the fabric, the quilting, the pattern used, etc. Some quilts give us more information about their age than other quilts. At best, we can only make an educated guess.

Giving an exact date is impossible, which is why dates are given in a range. Circa or “c.” before a date mean the quilt was probably made 10 years either side of the date. Another way of stating an approximate date is by quarters of centuries, i.e. “the third quarter of the 19th century.”



There are several general rules that seem simple when stated, but very easy to overlook. One is that a quilt can be no older than the newest fabric used to make it.

Another rule is that once a pattern has been introduced into the “quilt world,” it will never leave the design pool from which quilt-makers draw.

The sewing machine was patented in 1846 and was in home use in the 1850s. If a quilt has machine stitching, it could not have been made before 1850. If a quilt has only hand work, it could have been

made either before or after 1850. When looking for machine stitching, be sure to check the long seams such as the backing and binding as well as the piecing.

Here are some “snapshots” of some dates that might be helpful to estimate the age of a quilt:

1750-1800	Whole cloth quilts—likely to be wool
1750-1850	Chintz quilts—Broderie Perse
1840’s	Album quilts started
1840’s	Red, white, and green with accent color started
1870’s	Shirtings started—white with small designs on the fabric
1880	Crazy quilts started
1910-1925	Chambray used in quilts
1925	Pastels were popular
1930’s thru 1940’s	Prints became bolder and colors stronger

In flower appliqué quilts, those made in the 19th century, are more likely to be stylistic flowers while those made in the early 20th century tend to have more realistic flowers.

How do you learn how to date quilts? Read books about textile and quilt history. Take a class in dating quilts. Look at many quilts from many eras. Try to find in the quilts you see what you have read and learned about.

No one clue can give us the date of a quilt. All clues taken together can give us an estimate.

**Patricia Hubel Boucher** is a Certified American Quilters Society Appraiser. She lives in Grand Rapids. This article is reprinted with permission.

## ROB WOODRICK MEMORIAL DECK COMPLETED IN ROSELLE PARK

Work was recently completed on the Rob Woodrick Memorial Observation Deck in Roselle Park. This barrier-free structure affords an expansive, elevated view of restored waterfowl habitat and adjacent upland areas in the 247-acre park on Grand River Dr. The steel deck railings incorporate decorative panels with silhouettes of many of the wildlife species that can be observed in the park.

The structure is in memory of Township resident Rob Woodrick, an avid nature and wildlife enthusiast who passed away in 2003. Funding for the deck, which was constructed by local craftsmen from Carlson Design Studio, provided by Bob and Aleicia Woodrick, private donors who contributed to a memorial fund through the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, and Ada Township.



## 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 2008 dog licenses will be available the first week of December through February 29th, 2008. 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, 2008, 5:00PM. If you have any questions regarding your taxes contact the treasurer's office at (616) 676-9191 ext: 27 or 23,

or email

Treasurer Diane Pratt

pratt@ada.mi.us

or

Deputy Treasurer Gina

deputytreas@ada.mi.us



## Photo Exhibit Highlights Open Space

A six township-wide photography exhibit to celebrate local rural character through photography is now underway, through October 19. The exhibit is sponsored by the Open Space Preservation Council for the Eastern Townships of Kent County, an informal group with representatives from the townships of Ada, Cannon, Cascade, Grattan, Lowell and Vergennes.

The show's Opening Reception was held on September 18 at Cascade Library's Wisner Center. Selected photos are now on display in all six township halls, through October 19.

The Open Space Preservation Council for the Eastern Townships of Kent County is a volunteer citizen committee committed to preserving rural character on a regional level. Membership is open to residents of Grattan, Cannon, Vergennes, Ada, Cascade, and Lowell Townships. Its mission is "to facilitate proactive measures to preserve private and public open space through cooperation between citizens and township leaders in the eastern townships of Kent County."



## A Note from the Clerk

### We Want Your Input!

The Township Board is the decision making body for your future in our township. Many of these decisions have a permanent impact the Township of Ada.

We need your input!  
What are your views?  
What are your ideas?  
What are your solutions?

You may complete a brief survey on the Ada Township website at [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us) or contact us directly at M-F 9AM-5PM at (616) 676-9191 ext: 0

We represent **YOU** and need **YOUR** input on various issues facing the future of our township.

Minutes and Agendas for the Township Board, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals are accessible at [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us) or if you would like to be added to the e-mail list please contact the Clerk at [millhuff@ada.mi.us](mailto:millhuff@ada.mi.us)

Please join us for the  
Roselle Park Open House  
Sunday, October 28th  
2-4PM

# From the Assessor's Desk

## STAFFING

Assessing Director: Ginger Soles-CMAE III Extension 26

Appraisal Questions: John DeRoo, Township Appraiser @ Extension 32

General Assessing lookup: Lisa Verburg, Clerical Assistant@ Extension 42

## 2007 TAX BILL CALCULATIONS/INFORMATION

Please note: In 2005 the State of Michigan passed legislation mandating the County Operating millages be moved from the Winter Tax Bill collections to the Summer Tax Bill Collections. The mandate was to move 1/3 of the Operating Millage over a period of 3 years. This mandate only affected the County Operating millages. Please note that the other county millages will still be reflected on your 2007 Winter tax bill.

The first shift in the operating millage occurred on the 2005 Summer Tax Bill.

The second shift in the operating millage occurred on the 2006 Summer Tax Bill.

The third shift in the operating millage occurred on the 2007 Summer Tax Bill.

Please note the shifting of the millage from the Winter Tax Bill to the Summer Tax Bill will reflect in a lower Winter Tax Bill, unless the registered voters approve new millages. Each property in the State of Michigan received at minimum a Rate of Inflation adjustment to their Taxable Value (as discussed above). The taxable value of the property is applied to the appropriate millage for the property by school district.

Example of Tax levy calculation:

Properties Taxable Value multiplied by the 2006 Voter Approved Mills divided by 1,000 = \$ Annual Tax Bill

Principal Residence: Taxable Value \$98,457 x 29.2644 Annual Mills / \$1,000 = \$2,881.29

Non Principal Residence \$98,457 x 47.2644 Annual Mills / \$1,000 = \$4,653.51

## MYTH:

The property owners will only receive one tax bill each year in the summer.

## ANSWER:

NO, Other Voter Approved Millages are levied based on the proposal language on the ballot and are still levied in the winter. For example: the County would still collect revenue on the winter tax bill for the Voter Approved Senior Citizen millage.

## MYTH:

I can appeal my assessment for the calendar year at any time of the year or when I receive my tax bill.

## ANSWER:

NO, A property owner can only make an appeal of the assessment, taxable value, or classification of their property at the March Board of Review sessions held annually each year in March.

## 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 [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us) clicking on the red tool bar choose PROPERTY INFORMATION and search for your property by street name.

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, 2007. The exemption will remain in effect until December 31, 2007. The first year the property would be subject to the regular millage rate would be in 2008. 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; as well as, those permits pulled for new construction since January 1 of 2007. John De Roo, Township Appraiser will be performing these inspections throughout the remainder of the year.

Our offices will be performing field review inspections as a result

*(Continued on page 6)*

## From the Assessor's Desk *(Continued on from page 5)*

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 11, 2007 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 2007 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 a corrected Summer Tax bill or refund; moreover, a revised Winter Tax bill sent out on December 1, 2007. Upon the granting of the petition at the December Board of Review meeting a revised tax bill will be sent to you by the Treasurer's office.

Granting of petitions for years prior to 2007 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: [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us) on the red tool bar, select: PROPERTY INFORMATION, Search by your street address. Select your address and you will see the forms for this exemption at the top of the screen. The online form is titled, Affidavit for Homestead Exemption. You may also contact our offices for a copy of this form to be sent to you by US mail.

### NEIGHBORHOOD REVIEWS

Ada Township Assessor's office will be working on neighborhood reviews during the calendar year of 2007. 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, John De Roo 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 2008. 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 December. Please note, if you have pulled a building permit for new construction in a prior year that was not yet completed or in the 2007 calendar year, will be inspected upon the completion of the permit issued by the building department or an inspection for partial construction for percentage complete will be reviewed during the year for new value added to the property for the 2008 tax year.

### MARKET & TAX VALUATION

While Proposal A in 1994 put a cap on tax increased at the rate of inflation or 5% + new constructions or - losses of construction, the assessment value is still calculated @ 50% of the Market Value annually based on sales data over a specific date range.

Annually, Michigan properties Assessments are determined on December 31 of the prior calendar year (December 31, 2006). The 2007 Assessment was determined by sales that occurred between the dates of April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2006. We are in the process of completing the assessment determinations for 2008. The sales used to complete the increase/decreases of assessments will be determined from Arms Length transfers that occurred between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2007.

Taxable value (product of Proposal A) is a calculation of the 2006 Taxable Value multiplied by the **2007 Rate of Inflation or Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 3.7%**. Transfers of Ownership in the calendar year of 2006 produced a 2007 Taxable Value that

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 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 July Board of Review open session will be held at the Ada Township offices, 7330 Thornapple River Road, Ada, MI 49301 as follows:

**Tuesday, DECEMBER 11, 2007 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 by to December 7, 2007. All requests should be submitted to the Assessor's office. The township has a drop box by the front door of the main entrance. The office number is (616)676-9191.

## From the Assessor's Desk

is equal to the 2007 State Equalized Value due to the "Uncapping" requirement of Proposal A.

Should the market study indicate that the neighborhood market values are showing a decline in the Market Value of the properties it would then reflect a decrease of the following years Assessed Value as the Taxable Value is calculated at the rate of inflation and cannot exceed the State Equalized Value (SEV).

The Taxable Value is only affected by the actual assessment when the Assessment (SEV) is lower than the prior year's Taxable Value. For example: 2006 Taxable Value of \$184,113 x 1.037 (CPI) = \$190,925 for 2007. An Assessment of \$150,000 would cause the Taxable Value to also be decreased to \$150,000.

Taxable Value from one property to another property will not be the same even in the event that the State Equalized Value (SEV) is the same, due to the calculation of Proposal A; moreover, all of the items listed above that impact the calculation.

Assessments are determined from the market study; moreover, the Taxable Value calculation is determined by the rate of inflation, as we have discussed above. The Assessment Change notices are then sent to the owner prior to the appeal session. The 2008 Assessment notices will be mailed out no later than 10 days before the adjournment of the March Board of Review to notify each property owner in the township of the Assessment Value and Taxable Value for the 2008 tax year. You can expect to receive your annual assessment notice around the same time each year. Assessment appeals are heard each year in March for those property owners that wish to dispute their Assessment. Assessment appeals can not be heard by the July or December Boards of Review.

Inspections completed in the 2007 calendar year will not effect the 2007 assessment. Assessments for 2007 were completed and based on tax day (December 31, 2006). The tax collection cycle for the 2007 tax year is July 1, 2007 for the Summer Millages and December 1, 2007 for the Winter Millages. Please check with the Treasurer's office regarding the due dates and those types of tax bill questions. ■



### How to Cure your Leaf Headache - Mow 'em!

Mow tree leaves in the autumn instead of raking and bagging - just raise your mower height to accommodate! After a couple of passes with the mower, leaf pieces will slowly sift down through turf. It's an excellent way to return nutrients to the soil, and you can use them as mulch in your garden too!

## Property Information Access

Ada Township is pleased to announce a new web service provider for Property Information on the Ada Township Website!

For the first time, Utility Billing information is available on-line. On the red tool bar you will select the Property Information menu.

Your menu choices are Assessing Information, Treasurer Information, or Utility Billing Information.

Once you have chosen the department you can search for your information by using the search options. For example: by property address.

We have some other exciting news to tell you! We will now have three ways to make your utility payment or your tax payment.

Both the Treasurer's Department and the Utility Department have made available an Automatic Bill Payment Authorization option, an On-line Credit Card payment option; or the traditional method of payment option is still available through the post office or at the township offices.

Due to the billing cycles for each of these departments, if you decide to choose the option of Automatic Bill Payment to make payments directly from your bank account you will need to complete one authorization form from the Utility Department and one authorization form for the Tax Department.

What is great about this automatic bill payment is that you get to choose between these two options. You may elect to utilize the automatic billing payment option for both types of payment or for only one.

These forms are available on the Property Information display screen right above the utility billing information and also on the Tax billing information page. Please follow the instructions and return your form to the appropriate department for processing.

Please be sure to contact our offices if you have any questions about the process for this set up by calling the offices at (616) 676-9191 Utility Department extension 33 or Treasurers Department extension 23 or 27.

Be sure to visit us at [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us).

## Publication Notes . . .

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## Arts Council Holds Fall Festival

**The Ada Council for the Arts is holding its  
2nd Annual Autumn Arts Festival  
from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday, October 14,  
at the Thomapple Daily Grill.**

This free, fun event will feature display of work by a number of area artists, along with musical entertainment from Willie Singleton. Complimentary food for the season will include bratwurst, chili, donuts and cider. Refreshments including Seasonal Brews from Bell's Brewery will also be available at special prices.

Capping off the event will be silent and live auctions featuring a variety of goods and services donated by area merchants, with auctioneering services provided by Andy Rent from 100.5 FM radio.

This event is an excellent way to kick off the fall season, and is sure to become an annual "must attend" event in Ada.

It will also be an opportunity to become a member of the Ada Arts Council, and help in "Keeping the Arts Alive in Ada."



## Weather Wise Facts

*Weather information furnished  
by George Lessens of WZZM Channel 13*

Sept. - Oct. - Nov.

Warmest - 1931...57.5

Coldest - 1976...45.8

Average...49.9

Last Year...49.9

(tied with 32nd coldest)

Most Snow - 28.6"...1895

Least Snow - Trace...1984

Average...8.3"

Last Year...2.4"

2005...17.3"

Average Sunshine... 42.0%

Last Year... 41.5%



## 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](http://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

