

# THE ADAVIEW

## Your Claim Your Fame!

The Community Media Center celebrates its 24th anniversary and 13th 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.

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

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 Wednesday July 4th, 2007.

Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration!

### Fireworks at dusk on Tuesday, July 3rd, 2007

Forest Hills Central HS

Special Musical Performance of the *Star Spangled Banner* By:  
Kyle Black, Julie Alfano, Lara VanderHeiden, and Alexander Neubeck

### ★ July 4th, 2007 Schedule

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

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

9:30 AM... Parade Line-up

10:00 AM... PARADE BEGINS

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

Noon-12: 30 PM... 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 July 3rd at Dusk!

*Many Thanks to those who make this Celebration possible!*

Ada Township 4th of July Committee Members

Ada Bible Church

In the Image

Mr Timothy Pratt; Master of Quizzical

Community Media Center

and all of our Sponsors who make the celebration possible! ★

# Roots of our Independence

By Deb EM

In 1773, Britain's East India Company was warehousing a large stock of tea which they were unable to sell in England. The company was on the verge of bankruptcy and in an effort to save the company; the British government passed the *Tea Act of 1773*. Allowing the company the right to export the merchandise to the American Colonies without paying any of the taxes all other colonial merchants had to pay. With the *Tea Act of 1773* in place the company could undersell American merchants and monopolize the colonial tea trade.

The act is what provoked the Colonists into the reality of what had previously been discussed and ignored; the subject of **Independence**. The Act angered influential colonial merchants, who feared being bankrupted by a monopoly and the anger was amplified by The East India Company's decision to grant franchises to certain American merchants creating more resentment among those excluded. Most important, however, the Tea Act of 1773 revived Americans passions about the issue of taxation without representation.

Since the law provided no new tax on tea Lord North mistakenly assumed most colonists would welcome the new law because it would reduce the price of tea to consumers by removing the middleman. However, the colonists responded by boycotting tea.

Unlike earlier protests, this boycott mobilized large segments of the population. Particularly important to the movement were the activities of colonial women, who were one of the principal consumers of tea and now became the leaders of the effort to the boycott. It also linked the colonies together in a common experience of a popular protest.

The various colonies planned to prevent the East India Company from landing its cargoes in colonial ports. In ports (other than Boston), agents of the company were "persuaded" to resign, and new shipments of tea were either returned to England or warehoused. In Boston, the agents refused to resign and, with the support of the royal governor, preparations were made to land incoming cargo regardless of opposition.

After failing to turn back three ships in the harbor, local patriots led by Samuel Adams staged a spectacular drama. On the evening of December 16, 1773, three companies of fifty men each, masquerading as Mohawk Indians, passed through a tremendous crowd of spectators, went aboard the three ships, broke open the tea chests, and heaved them into the harbor. As the electrifying news of the "Boston Tea Party" spread, other seaports followed the example and staged similar acts of resistance of their own and beginning our fight for independence from England!

**Happy Independence Day!**

# News from the Parks Dept.

Summer in the Parks Department is well under way. The brochure of summer programs is now available. If you have not received one, you can pick one up at the Township Hall, Ada Park, Cascade Library, Ada Bike Shop or the Forest Hills Aquatic Center. It is also online at the Township website: [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us) If you have any questions regarding the parks or the programs, contact Wendy Tatar at 676-0520.

## Roselle Park Update

Construction on the paved trails began in April. The Township Board recently approved spending to pave additional trails in the park. This will mean that the park will be closed longer than we first anticipated. Construction of the river overlook deck and the Woodrick Memorial Wildlife Observation Deck will begin soon. We hope to start construction on the Silo Observation Tower also. The plan is to have the park back open before Labor Day weekend for your enjoyment. Watch for additional updates through the summer.

## Please Pardon Our Dust!

After a few delays the new restroom building is being constructed at Leonard Field. If Mother Nature cooperates the restrooms should be open by August!

## Bike Rodeo to be Held

The Kent County Sheriff's Department, the Township Parks Department and the Ada Bike Shop are joining together to hold a Bike Rodeo. The event will be held on August 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Ada Park. This event is for children ages 12 & under that can already ride a two-wheeled bike.

The purpose of the Bike Rodeo is to teach children safe bike riding techniques and rules of the road to keep them safe. This is done through a series of stations and activity areas. Come join us for a day of fun activities, food and prizes. If you are interested in volunteering to work at this event, contact Wendy Tatar at 676-0520.



Pre-registration is required and is \$5 per child. All proceeds earned from the event will help support the Kent County Sheriff's Department D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) program and the Community Policing Unit.

### Kent County Bike Rodeo at Ada Park

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

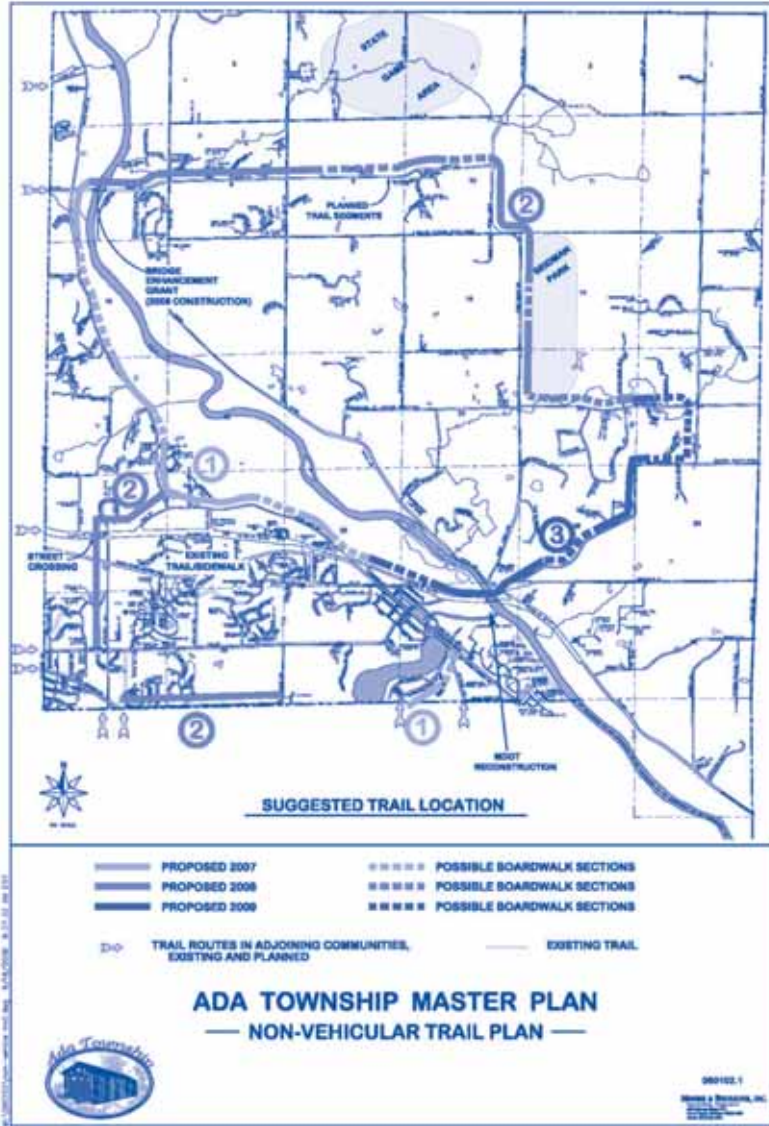
Please use one form per child. Make checks payable to:

K.C.T.S. Action Fund

Send to:

Kent County Sheriff's Dept.  
Community Policing Unit  
710 Ball St. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
ATTN: Sandi Jones

## Trail Construction Schedule Update:



The map on this page shows the planned phasing, estimated timing and proposed location of future trail construction in Ada Township.

Construction is planned to start in early July on the east-west portion of Grand River Drive, from Fulton St. west to Carl Dr. Work will begin on the section from Carl Drive north to Knapp St. in mid-July. Both sections of the Grand River Dr. trail will be completed by the end of October.

Completion of the trail on Thornapple River Dr., from Lion's Park north to Buttrick Avenue will also be completed this year, in conjunction with the re-alignment of the Buttrick Ave./Thornapple River Dr. intersection. Construction will start in August, and be completed by the end of October.

The first step in the construction process is staking of the trail alignment by surveyors. Wooden stakes will be placed in the ground at a distance of 2 feet behind the back edge of the asphalt trail. Grading of the trail surface will take place after the stakes are placed.

After staking of the trail alignment is complete, property owners who have questions or concerns may contact the Township's engineering consultants for the project, Tim Hoffert or Steve Groenenboom, at 363-9801.

## Natural Areas Inventory Completed

In Summer, 2006, a team of naturalists led by Dr. Dave Warners from Calvin College carried out an inventory of high quality natural sites in the community. After reviewing historical aerial photographs and other existing data sources, the owners of identified high quality natural lands were contacted for permission to allow an on-site inventory of plant communities to be conducted by the Calvin group.

The results of the work are described in a Final Report, including conclusions and recommendations regarding the possible layout of a "green infrastructure network in the Township composed of "cores," "hubs" and "links."

The Final Report, in an edited form, is available for download on the Township web site, [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us), and is available in a longer unedited version that can be reviewed at the Township offices.

The study was funded by a grant from the "Urban Cooperation Board," an advisory group made up of the customer communities of the Grand Rapids public water and sewer systems, which includes Ada Township.

Here are a few of the remarkable findings from the inventory work that was conducted:

- A total of 771 plant species were identified on the 17 sites where detailed inventories were conducted.
  - 10 of the identified species are listed by the State of Michigan as either threatened, endangered, or species of special concern.
  - 25 of the native Michigan plants that were identified were species that were newly-documented as occurring in Kent County.
  - An alarmingly high 23 species that are non-native to Michigan were also newly-documented in Kent County in this inventory, suggesting a relatively recent origin in this area.
  - Using a measure called the "floristic quality index," used widely across the State to measure the ecological integrity of natural sites, 15 of the 17 sites that received detailed inventories had scores qualifying them as "very rare" and "containing a significant component of Michigan's natural biological diversity."
- Detailed plant inventory reports have been provided to the 17 property owners who permitted the Calvin team to walk their properties.
- Expected benefits of the inventory project are threefold:
1. It is hoped that the inventory results will give property owners an enhanced appreciation for the natural attributes of their property, and encourage good stewardship practices on their part.
  2. When property is developed, the inventory information can be used to design development in a way that minimizes impact on the high quality natural features of the site.
  3. The inventory will provide information for use by the Township in identifying priorities for lands that the Township pursues for acquisition, with available funding from the Parks and Land Preservation millage revenues.

# FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK....

## STAFFING

I wish to formally WELCOME the new Ada Township Appraiser, John DeRoo whom has filled the vacancy in the assessing department. We also wish to THANK Matthew Smith for his service with Ada Township as the Appraiser for the two years of service. He has accepted an exciting opportunity to advance his career in assessment administration by taking a position with Kent County Equalization. We are excited to have John De Roo with Ada Township and wish Matthew Smith the best of luck on his new endeavors.

Our office also wishes to WELCOME Lisa Verburg, clerical assistant for Ada Township, and thank her for her assistance in our office.

## 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.

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

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

### THE LAST YEAR FOR THE SHIFT IN MILLAGE WILL OCCUR 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 2007 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.

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 December Board of Review will be meeting on July 17, 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 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, 2007; upon the granting of the petition at the July Board of Review meeting on July 17, 2007, 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 **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 July Board of Review open session will be held at the Ada Township offices, 7330 Thornapple River Road, Ada, MI 49301 as follows:

**Tuesday, JULY 17, 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 **JULY 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.

**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 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.

## Statutory Duties of a Township Board



The Chart 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) 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.

## The Great Champion Tree Contest!

Who has the biggest tree? Ada? Or Vergennes?  
(The Competition is ON!)

If you know of a huge tree, enter this contest!  
Win a prize - and help your township win bragging rights!

In the spirit of friendly competition – and in honor of Arbor Day, April 27, 2007, – residents of Vergennes and Ada townships are holding a "champion tree" contest to discover which township harbors the biggest tree. Help us identify what could be a living reminder of pre-settlement times!

### Contest Details

- Find a BIG tree!
- Submit an entry form (available at township websites [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org) or [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us) or township halls)
- Contest runs Arbor Day, April 27, 2007 until September 30, 2007
- Winners announced at Harvest Celebration in Lowell, October 13, 2007
- Tree sizes will be confirmed by certified arborist Brian McKenzie, and Professional Landscaper Tom Rooks
- Grand Champion Tree prize: a free tree!
- Organic cotton T-shirts to the first 25 entrants from each township!
- Bragging rights determined by the total girth of the top 5 trees from each township.

### Join The Fun!

Get Out In The Woods and Look for BIG Trees!  
Sponsored by the Open Space Citizen's Committees  
for Vergennes and Ada Townships.

### Entry Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Tree (nearest cross-streets): \_\_\_\_\_

Species of Tree (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Girth of tree in inches (as measured 4.37 feet or 52 inches above ground): \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner of property where tree is located: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Entries must be postmarked by September 30, 2007 to:  
Betty Jo Crosby, 411 Grand River Drive, Ada, MI 49301  
or  
Kate Dernocoeur, 1200 Fero Rd., Lowell, MI 49331

## Photo Contest Highlights Open Space

A six-township photography contest to celebrate local rural character through photography is now underway. Sponsored by the Open Space Preservation Council



for the Eastern Townships of Kent County, the contest will end with a photo show in September, 2007. Photographs must depict natural features or rural character found anywhere within the townships of Grattan, Cannon, Vergennes, Ada, Cascade, and Lowell. Photographers may be of any age and address.

Participants are encouraged to "seek out those unseen treasures in your own backyard," said Betty Jo Crosby, a member of the organizing committee.

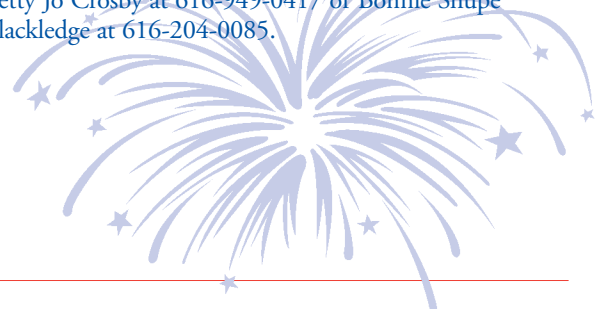
After the show's Opening Reception on September 18 at Cascade Library's Wisner Center, selected photos will hang in all six township halls from September 24 until October 19. Deadline for submission is September 14.

Judging the photo contest are three prominent area photographers: Steve Frykholm, Brian Kelly, and Bill Hebert. Frykholm, creative director and vice president at Herman Miller, is an award-winning graphic designer and avid nature photographer. Kelly, a fine art photographer, depicted many interesting scenes in his book "Grand Rapids: Night After Night." He and his wife opened their local gallery, The Photography Room in 2002. Hebert is also an award-winning photographer. Owner of Insightful Imagery, Hebert's "Growing A Masterpiece" is the 10 year anniversary book of the Frederik Meijer Gardens.

Prizes will be awarded to the top six photographs in adult and youth (under 18) categories. Entry forms can be obtained at each township website, in print at local township halls, and in many area school and arts councils and galleries.

The Open Space Preservation Council for the Eastern Townships of Kent County is a cross-jurisdictional 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."

For more information about the photo contest, contact Betty Jo Crosby at 616-949-0417 or Bonnie Shupe Blackledge at 616-204-0085.





# Neighborhood Watch Update

The “East Precinct.” was created in partnership with Ada, Cascade and Grand Rapids Township to bring the Kent County Sheriff’s Department closer to our residents and business owners. There are many advantages to this partnership; this area has 24 hours, seven days a week, additional coverage, with two (2) Deputies from the Community Services Unit designated to the area to help establish and work with existing Neighborhood Watch programs as well as being closely involved with the residents, business owners and board members!

## Neighboring

Neighboring is best defined as knowing who your neighbors are; know their children and vehicles. This helps each of us to define suspicious vehicles or persons in our neighborhood and to help prevent and deter crime.

Interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch?  
Would you like more information?

**Contact: Deputy Bill Whiting...632-6436**

**REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES and/or BEHAVIOR TO  
THE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPT.**

**(616) 336-0520**

## Safety Hints: For a fun in the sun summer!

- When walking in an area without a trail or sidewalk **always walk facing** the traffic!
- When walking or riding your bike **always stop** prior to crossing the street!
- When walking or riding **stay aware**; watch for cars backing out of driveways or pulling out at an intersection!

# A Note from the Clerk

## Exercise Your Right to Vote!

**Tuesday August 7th, 2007 Special Election!**

**Polls Open at 7AM ~ Polls Close 8PM**

## Proposals on the Ballot

### Grand Rapids Community College

Shall the Grand Rapids Community College be authorized to levy an additional .49 mills (49 cents on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) in property tax, without limitation as to number of years, for the purpose of general operations of the College? The original millage limitation on the annual property tax previously approved by the electors of the Grand Rapids Community College district of 1.9 mills has been reduced by the “Headlee” amendment to 1.7865 mills. The amount of revenue raised by the additional levy in the first year is estimated at \$9,800,000.

This proposal will increase the levy by the Grand Rapids Community College previously approved by the electors by .49 of one mill for the purpose if general operations of the College. There are 26 local authorities that may capture and use for authorized purposes tax increment revenues from property taxes levied by the Grand Rapids Community College, which will include a portion of the additional levy. The estimated amount of the captured tax increment revenues from such millage increase will be \$17,000 in the first year.

Yes  No

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](mailto:millhuff@ada.mi.us) or go online to [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us)!

## MEETING DATES

**Ada Township Hall is located at  
7330 Thornapple River Drive**

Open Monday – Friday  
(except holidays) 8AM-5PM  
(616) 676-9191

You may also access township information at [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us)

### Ada Township Board Meetings

2nd & 4th Monday

7:30 PM

July ... 9th

July... 23

August ... 13th

August ...27th

September... 10th

September ... 24th

### Ada Township Planning Commission

3rd Thursday

7:30 PM

July ...19th

\*\*\*August... 16th

September ...20th

\*\*\*Please Note Date Change for August

### Ada Township Zoning Board of Appeals

1st Tuesday

4:30 PM

July ... 3rd

August... 7th

September ...4th

**Ada Township Office’s will be  
closed Wednesday July 4th and  
Monday, September 3rd in  
observance of Labor Day**

# AUGUST IN ADA ~ CHILDREN'S FAIR FRIDAY AUGUST 3rd, 2003 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M

## Publication Notes . . .

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Closed Holidays

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August in Ada is an annual Children's Fair sponsored by the Ada Business Association and presented as a "Thank You" to the community for their support.

The crafts are free as well as several rides, a petting zoo, pony rides, \$5 haircuts, and various displays, costumed characters (Ronald McDonald show at 12:00p.m.) and exhibitions by the fire department and local law enforcement.

The event is held in the open lawn area across from Alticor (Amway) Corporate Headquarters at 7575 E. Fulton on Friday, August 1 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

## Tornado: Plan to Survive!

The safest place to be in Tornado is underground, preferably under something sturdy such as a workbench.

If there is no basement in your home, a small room in the center of the home, such as a bathroom or closet is best.

In a Car: Never try to out run a tornado. If you see a funnel cloud or hear a tornado warning issue on the radio or by a siren, get out of your vehicle seek a safe structure or lie as flat as possible in a low area with your hands cover the back part of your head and neck.

Always check the emergency shelter plans of the building you enter. If you cannot locate one ask the establishment that you visit to please furnish one by the entry doors as a courtesy for their customers. If none are

available always move to an interior hall or small room on the lowest floor of the building and lie flat.

### Be Aware! Stay Alive!

*\*Always know where the emergency exits are where ever you are most public buildings have a diagram of emergency exits if not each exit should be lit.*

## 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 . . . 71.2"	
Average Precipitation . . . . .	11.01"
Most Precipitation 22.63"	1994
Driest . . . . . 3.08"	1894
Last Year . . . . .	10.29"
Average Sunshine . . . . .	65.0%
Last Year . . . . .	78.6%

## Patriots Wanted! Uncle Sam Wants You!

(to celebrate his birthday)

Happy Birthday America! This year "Celebrate your Independence" for The 4th of July!

We are looking for Volunteers to participate in the parade with a neighborhood, family, organization, children and pets included!

Be the Leader of your own Kazoo Band, Expose your talent with a musical float, family float, church float etc...

Support your community and display your pride in the USA and Ada Township!

Please contact:  
**Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff**  
millhuff@ada.mi.us  
616-676-9191 ext: 21