Volume 24 / Issue 57 · Fall 2009 · www.adatownshipmi.com

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the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

# ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**Programs, Activities & Events** Special Events for the Whole Family

## **River Festival, Roselle Park**



#### Saturday, October 3RD, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Free

Come out and enjoy Ada Township's new Roselle Park! There will be activities for all ages plus food, music and river stewardship information. Special activities set for the day will include:

- \* Exhibits and displays by local river conservation organizations
- \* Live Music
- \* Wagon Rides
- \* Hiking & Biking
- activities for kids
  - \* Special Presentations \* River kayak and canoe

\* Hands-on and discovery

- \* Snacks available \* Free admission
  - information

#### "Spooky Creature Feature" Night Hike Saturday, October 24TH, Start times from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

\$2/youth, \$3/adult fee. Ada Park

Sign up your family or group for a start time between 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., one every 15 minutes. On arrival to the Shelter at Ada Park you will be guided through the trails in the dark where you will "encounter" spooky and scary (and some not so scary) "creatures" that will "teach" you about their lives in the wild. Snacks in the Learning Center after the hikes. Pre-registering with the Park office for a designated start time recommended. Ages 4 though adult suggested. Costumes optional. \$2/youth, \$3/adult fee.

# ADA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET

Thank you everyone for making our new Farmers Market a huge success! By popular demand, we will be back next year, and possibly with an expanded schedule.

## **OCTOBER IN ADA FALL FESTIVAL**

- The Rivers Lecture Oct. 1ST Ada Township Hall For more information contact: Ada Historical Society (616) 676-9346
- **River Festival** Oct. 3RD Roselle Park For more information contact: Ada Parks and Rec. (616) 676-0520
- **Girls Night Out** Oct. 8TH Village of Ada For more information contact: Grand River Grocery (616) 676-9292
- **Ride into Fall/Scooter Ride** Oct. 11TH Ada Bike Shop For more information contact: Ada Bike Shop (616) 682-2453
- **Two River Festival of Pie** Oct. 17TH The Thornapple For more information contact: The Daily Grill (616) 676-1233
- Ada Autumn Arts Festival Oct. 18TH The Thornapple For more information contact: Ada Arts Council info@adaarts.org
- "Spooky Creature Feature" Night Hike Oct. 24TH Ada Park For more information contact: Ada Parks and Rec. (616) 676-0520

# **PUMPKIN FEST:** A WEEK OF PUMPKIN FUN

Month of October	Business and Resident Halloween Decorating Contest. Awards for Best Decorated Residence and Best Decorated Business. Entry forms available at Town Hall.
October 24TH	Pumpkin Carving Demonstration: 12 noon-4 p.m. Hot cider and donut holes on the patio at Grand River Grocery.
October 26-29тн	Pumpkin Carving Contest. Drop carved pumpkins off at Ada Historical Society Museum. Community voting.
October 29тн	Pumpkin and Village Decorating awards at Ada Historical Society Museum.
October 31st	Trick-or-Treat at Ada Village Shops and Free Candy in participating village shops. Fire Station Trick-or-Treat starts at 6 p.m.

# **RELAXED RULES ON TEMPORARY SIGNS ADOPTED**

The Ada Township Board recently enacted several changes to the Township's sign regulations, based on comments and input received over the last year, particularly from the business community. Most of these changes result in a relaxation of the sign restrictions. Following is a summary of the changes in the sign rules:

# Increase in maximum allowed size of wall signs in the PO, C-2, LI and I districts.

The previous rules permitted one wall sign per business with a maximum size of 24 square feet. The revised rules base the maximum allowed size of a wall sign on the square footage of the business. Larger businesses are thereby permitted a larger wall sign, up to a maximum of 40 square feet.

#### More generous use of temporary business signs.

The previous rules allowed temporary signs only during the first 30 days from opening of a new business. The rules did not allow temporary signs for other purposes such as special sales events, seasonal merchandise, closing of a business, etc. The new rules allow an individual free-standing business to obtain up to 4 permits per year for use of a temporary sign, with each permit allowing display of one sign for a maximum period of 7 days.

In the case of a multiple-tenant business center, each business may be issued up to 2 permits per year. In addition, the management or owner of the business center is allowed an additional 2 permits per year for the entire center, to allow for coordinated display of a temporary sign on behalf of one or all of the occupants of the business center.

### Use of "sandwich board" style signs in the Village business district.

Under the old sign rules, sandwich board-style signs were not permitted. Under the new rules, in addition to the temporary business signs allowed with a permit as described above, within the Village Business (C-1) district only, use of one sidewalk sandwich board sign per business is allowed on a daily basis, without need of a permit. These signs may be up to 12 square feet (3' x 4'), and can be located either on private property or on the public sidewalk. Placement on the sidewalk is permitted only in areas where the public sidewalks are at least 8 feet wide.

#### Provisions for "community special events" signs.

The previous rules contained no allowance for special community event signs, except for specific language allowing temporary signs for church and school events. The new rules allow "community special event signs," for churches, schools and other nonprofits such as the Historical Society, the Arts Council and the Township itself. These rules will permit more generous signs to inform the public of community events such as the Farmer's Market, Arts in Ada, Music on the Lawn, August in Ada, the July 4TH activities and other community events.

# Addition of a prohibition on "pedestrian signs."

One area of the sign rules is made more restrictive—a prohibition on "pedestrian signs." A "pedestrian sign" is defined as "a sign held or worn by a person standing, walking or otherwise located outdoors on either public or private property, for the purpose of displaying the sign to passing motorists or pedestrians on a nearby public road or sidewalk, and calling attention to a business, product, service or event."

Any business owner wishing to make use of the more generous allowance for use of temporary business signs should contact the Zoning Administrator, Steve Kishion at <u>skushion@adatownshipmi.com</u>, or 676-9191, Ext. 24, for information on obtaining a temporary sign permit.

# 4th ANNUAL ADA AUTUMN ARTS FESTIVAL

# Sponsored by Ada Council for the Arts.

# Sunday, October 18TH, from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

This year the event will be held at the Thornapple Daily Grill.

"Archive Duo" will be performing, featuring Jim Spalink and Fred Wilson.

There will be an art auction and raffle this year, with many interesting items to bid on!

Refreshments and Bell's! Seasonal Brews will get us all in the spirit!

# Cost is \$5.00 per person, \$15 for family.

Again, as always, this event is open to the public with a special invitation to support the Ada Council for the Arts with a small donation to "Keep the Arts Alive in Ada!"

#### **NEW WEBSITE**

The New Ada Township website is finally here! Go to <u>www.adatownshipmi.com</u> to check it out! Any comments? We would like to hear from you! Call the township offices at (616) 676-9191 and talk to Susan the Clerk, Deb, or Cassie. Better yet, go to the "Discussion Forum" on the new website to let us know what you think.



# **INTERNET SAFETY**

We have all heard and know the dangers the internet poses to our children and their safety. Please talk with your children and convey they importance as it relates to their time spent in chat rooms and information sharing sites (Facebook, Myspace, etc.). We teach them not to trust strangers in person why are the unknowns on the other end of a computer keyboard any different?!?

Here are a few helpful tips about getting involved in you child's online activities.

- 1) Keep the computer in a common area, not in individual bedrooms, where you can watch and monitor your child.
- 2) Share an email account with your child so you can monitor messages.
- 3) Spend time online together to teach your child appropriate online behavior.
- 4) Forbid your child from entering private chat rooms; block them with safety features provided by your Internet service provider or with special filtering software. Be aware that posting messages to chat rooms reveals your child's email address to others.
- 5) Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.

Remember it's important to document the time and date of the contact and then report such incidents to the Sheriffs Department.

# DECEMBER 5TH, 2009: Saturday Christmas Parade

- Christmas Parade at 11:00 a.m.
- Cookies to decorate and eat, and hot chocolate at the Ada Historical Society.
- Hot chocolate and cookies at the Fire Station afterwards.
- \* Check the *Cadence* for updated information the week before the events!

# THE 7TH ANNUAL "SHOP WITH A SHERIFF EVENT"

Last year was a huge success with nearly 100 children receiving desperately needed items. We think 2009 will be even better! This years event will occur on Sunday, December 13TH.

This program allows us to help families in the Kent County area that are unable to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. As a police agency we are able to identify these families through our local schools, churches, businesses and other community groups. In addition to believing that bettering the lives of the children in our community is our duty as public servants, the program allows the children to see law enforcement officers in a different way than the perception they may gain elsewhere.

Each year we take children Christmas shopping and allow them to spend a \$100.00 gift card for needed items (coats, hats, boots, mittens, etc.). These shopping lists have been created by a screening interview with the selected families and their children. Upon being selected to participate, families assemble at our local Walmart stores where they are partnered with a uniformed Sheriff's Deputy. With lights and sirens blazing all are set off on a shopping spree to fill their wish lists. There truly is no better feeling than the gift of giving and seeing the smiles on these children's faces. Help us show them we and the community care about their success at life!

The event is successful because of the partnership we have made with local businesses and Walmart stores. Funding for our event is sustained through donations, primarily businesses. Each year our Community Policing Officers network with local businesses and ask for donations to support the program. We then pool this money with Walmart stores donations for the final cost. Sheriffs Department employees then volunteer their time on the day of the event.



If you or your business would like to make a tax deductible contribution to this years program please contact Community Service Officer's Dep. Joe Taylor at 632-6436 or Dep Jason Vandyke at 632-6435. Checks (payable to Kent County Traffic Squad Community Action Fund, or KCTSCAF) may be mailed to:

Kent County Sheriffs Department Attn., Community services 701 Ball Ave, N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49503

# DECEMBER 3rd, 2009

# Tinsel, Treats & Trolley, First Annual Bridge Lighting Ceremony!

The celebration will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the **First Annual Bridge Lighting Ceremony** at Leonard Field, with the Olde World Santa and Christmas Caroling by the **Voices of Freedom**. Following the ceremony will be a precession over the bridge and up the votive lit Bronson Street to the Village, to enjoy an evening of events and shopping. The Trolley will be available for rides through the Village and stops at favorite shopping locations. All retailers will be serving refreshments, with many of them hosting special events or activities, a few of which are:



- **Grand Gallery** will host the Second Annual Rising Stars Art Contest, a competition for children 14 years old and under. You will be able to vote for your favorite entry on the night of the 3RD.
- Heather Lane Pottery will have treats with pottery and painting demonstrations.
- Busy Bees Trading Co. and Le Petit Boutique will have treats and activity books/crayons for the kids and special savings.
- Grand River Grocery will have an outside fire pit for customers to make their own s'mores, free.
- Ada Historical Society: Christmas Open House with greeting cards for children to color, cookies and treats, and Voices of Freedom singing again at 7:00 p.m.
- **Betsy Ratzsch Pottery** will have a gift grab-bag for the children.

# Saturday Morning Plant Sale \* Saturday, October 3

Roselle Park, Ada, Michigan 7:30 a.m.-Noon

# Save money on landscaping & help support WMEAC!

Hortech, Inc. donated hundreds of premium perennial landscape plants to WMEAC to help fund our water programs. You save! Normally sold at \$15 or more, WMEAC offers them for \$5 each! It's potluck what you will find on sale day, but the plants below are a sample of the beauties available.



Daylily "Mary's Gold"

Hosta "aurea marginata"

Heucherella

Miscanthus, Pennisetum

Daylily "chorus line"

Pre-orders will be accepted September 28-October 2.



Email info@wmeac.org or check wmeac.org for more information.



# ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7144 Headley St., Adaphone:676-9346web:www.adahistoricalsociety.orge-mail:adahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

All events are free of charge.

## **Events Schedule October-December 2009**

## October 1st, 2009

**The Rivers Lecture:** Ron Yob, a member of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians will present a Native American historical perspective on the Thornapple and Grand Rivers. The lecture will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Ada Township Assembly Hall. This event kicks off October in Ada.

#### October 26-29, 2009

Pumpkin Carving Contest: Kids 12 and under, please drop off your carved pumpkins at the Historical Society from Monday, October 26 through Wednesday, October. 28, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., to be considered for judging. At 6:30 p.m. on October 29TH we will light the jack o'lantern display. Awards for funniest, scariest and most creative entries will be presented in the barn at 7:00 p.m.

#### November 27-December 12, 2009

Holiday Wreath Sale: Deck the halls with fresh-cut Michigan wreaths! We will be selling wreaths made of Douglas Fir and Frazer Fir both available in 12-inch and 16-inch centers. A few larger wreaths may also be available. Sale hours are as follows: Friday, Nov. 27TH from 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 28TH from 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursday, December 3RD from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Friday, December 4TH from 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday, December 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 5TH from 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday, December 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday, December 1:00 p.m.-

#### December 3RD, 2009

Holiday Open House: Kick off your holiday season with a visit to the Village and the Historical Society. The Voices of Freedom, an eight-part acapella group, will begin the evening at the Ada Covered Bridge with Christmas carols at 6:00 p.m. After that, enjoy the shops in Ada and take the trolley down to the Historical Society. From 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., the museum will have greeting cards for children to color, a lighted tree display, cookies, and refreshments. The Voices of Freedom will sing again at the museum at 7:00 p.m.

#### December 5TH, 2009

**Cookies for Kids:** Come warm up at the barn before and after the Ada Santa Parade! We will be open at 10:00 a.m. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. We will have hot chocolate and cookies ready for decorating!



## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER...

Winter tax bills will be mailed the week of November 30TH, 2009. Since the normal due date for the winter taxes of February 14TH, 2010, falls on a weekend and the next business day is holiday for the Township, all tax payments are due in our office by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 16TH, 2010. Remember POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED as date receipted. After March 1ST, 2010 all unpaid real property will be turned over to the Kent County Treasurers Office for collection.

The usual payment options still apply; by mail, in person, by credit card *(see the reverse side of your tax bill for instructions)*. Credit cards are **NOT** accepted at the Township. Additionally, you may sign up for ACH electronic payments. Please contact our office for more information about ACH.

Dog license are available at the Township starting December 1sT, 2009 through March 1sT, 2010. The State of Michigan requires all dogs age 4 months and older to be licensed. In order for a 2010 license to be issued, a current rabies certificate, and proof of neuter/spay must be presented. You can receive a copy of these through you veterinarian.

Norm Rhoades, Treasurer 616-676-9191 ext 23 nrhoades@adatownshipmi.com

**Gina Olszewski**, Deputy Treasurer 616-676-9191 ext 27 golszewski@adatownshipmi.com

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# FALL CLEAN UP

The semi-annual Ada Township "Clean Up Day" will be Saturday, October 17TH, 2009 at the Kent County Road Commission on Fase St., 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Please remember you must live within Ada Township to drop off any trash, household items or yard waste. If you have any questions about items that are disposable, please contact the clerk's office at 676-9191.

<u>In The Image</u> will be at the Covered Bridge for your gently used clothing, furniture and household items.

Note: there is a huge need for clothing this year!

<u>Shred Docs</u> will also be at the Covered Bridge to do free on-site shredding of your sensitive documents (under 100 lbs).

# LEAF PICK UP

#### October 27TH, 2009

#### November 17TH, 2009

You MUST use Ada Township logo bags which may be purchased at the township office prior to the dates above for 50¢ each. Please have all bags out to your curb by 6:00 a.m.

(Restricted area only, south of Fulton to township line)



# ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## **Youth Programs**

#### Junior Naturalist

Ages 8-12 Dates vary 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. \$4/youth\*

Get a head start on your leaf collection, practice your fishing skills at the Ada Park Pond, and even find out why turkeys are such cool birds! Join us for games, hands-on activities, and lots of fun. Pre-registration requested & guardian contact information form required.

Leaf Mania	Tuesday, September 22ND	Ada Park
Fantastic Fall Fishing	Tuesday, October 6тн	Ada Park
Turkey Tales	Tuesday, November 17TH	Ada Park

#### **Discovery Days**

Ages 3-5 Dates vary 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon \$4/youth\*

Parents, join your pre-schooler for a fun morning of nature study, hands-on activities and games. Discover ways to enjoy the outdoors with your family and learn about other places to explore Michigan's beautiful natural world. Pre-registration requested by calling 676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com.

Be A Nature Detective	Wednesday, September 30TH	Ada Park
Go Batty!	Wednesday, October 21st	Ada Park
Squirrels	Wednesday, November 18TH	Ada Park

\*Ada Township residents receive \$1.00 off the fee of these programs.

#### **Schools Programs**

**Field Trips:** K-6 Outdoor Environmental Education Field Trips are available at Ada Park & Arboretum and Roselle Park. These are naturalist guided, themed outdoor programs, 1-2 hours in length, tailored to your curriculum needs. There is a fee of \$2/student.

Shelter rentals at Ada Park are available for self-guided programs by schools at \$25/day.

#### Boy and Girl Scout Programs: Other Youth Groups:

**Badge Work:** Instructional programs are available for Scouts after school, some evenings and occasional weekends. Contact the Park office for program options, scheduling and fees.

**Service Projects:** A variety of projects are available for Scouts ranging from conservation work to facility improvement and helping with special events. No fee.

## **Adult Programs**

#### **Native Plant Presentations**

Various Monday, 7:00 p.m. Ada Park Free

Provided by the River City Wild Ones (RCWO), a group dedicated to the preservation of native plants. Non-Members of the RCWO are free to attend the program and encouraged to join the group. A short business meeting will be held at each event. Pre-registration by phone or e-mail is appreciated. Contact River City Wild Ones at 616-233-0833 or <u>rivercitywildones@gmail.com</u> for more details.

Native Trees and Shrubs for Your Backyard, By Eric Nelson of the Lincoln NurseryMonday, October 19TH7:00 p.m.Les Craig Learning Center Ada Park

Annual Auction—A fund raiser for RCWO, plants and related items for auction. Monday, November 16TH 7:00 p.m. Les Craig Learning Center Ada Park

# ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## **General Information**

### Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department Contact Information:

Office located in Ada Park, 1180 Buttrick Ave. Ada, MI 49301. Office open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Mailing address:

P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301

Phone: 616-676-0520 fax: 616-676-5870

e-mail: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Web site: www.adatownshipmi.com

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

# Ada Township Parks:

Ada Park & Locke Arboretum 1180 Buttrick Ave., 57 acres. Softball & soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball court, playground, fishing pond, trails, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, gazebos, Les Craig Learning Center and the Bud Locke Arboretum.

**Leonard Field & Ada Covered Bridge** 7490 Thornapple River Drive, 2 acres. Softball field, bike path, river overlook deck, Ada Covered Bridge. **Grand River Natural Area** Grand River Drive S.E., enter via Ada Park or McGraw Park , 90 acres. Nature area, trails, bike path, woodlands, wetlands, Grand River.

**Roselle Park** 1010 Grand River Dr., N.E., 247 acres. Bike path, trails, picnic area, observation decks, natural areas, wetlands, prairie, forests, wildlife and river shore.

## For your information:

**Park Hours:** Park grounds are open to the public dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

**Dog Policy:** Township ordinances require dogs to be on leash and cleaned up after in all parks.

**Facility rentals and reservations:** The Shelter, Gazebo are available April through October. For reservations, availability, fee rates and use policies, contact the Park office.

**E-News:** If you are interested in receiving program information, updates or announcements from the Parks & Recreation Department via e-mail send a request to: <u>mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com</u>.

# **Park Volunteer Opportunities:**

Ada Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for volunteers to assist with grounds, gardens, stewardship, program instruction and clerical work. Contact the Park office at 676-0502 for details or email: <u>mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com</u>.

# "CONNECTING FAMILIES WITH NATURE: A PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE"

# Zoo, Nature Centers and Parks join together to get families outside



Nature is all around us and getting out to enjoy it as a family has been made even easier with the new Connecting Families with Nature Passport Program. Made possible by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, this is a collaborative program between seven Kent County environmental education organizations—Kent

Conservation District, John Ball Zoo, Ada Township Parks, Blandford Nature Center, Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve, Howard Christensen Nature Center, and Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center. The passport program will help families connect with nature through affordable, family-friendly programs and activities that can be done at these sites or independently. Each family's outdoor adventures begin by getting a passport for each child at one of the six partner sites. The passport will help each family track their outdoor experiences at these sites and other outdoor areas over the next year. Children that complete their passports with their family by next September are invited to attend an exclusive family event at John Ball Zoo in late September, 2010. Activities that qualify for passport stamps include family programs at the participating sites, going on a family hike and participating in a local stewardship project such as a stream cleanup or invasive species removal project. It takes just 8 stamps to complete a passport!

Each site events throughout the upcoming year will be available along with information about participation and future family activities <u>www.kentconservation.org/</u> <u>families</u> or contact the Ada Park office for more details (or a passport!).

## CALENDAR {2009}

#### October

- 6 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30 p.m.
- 8 Open Space Preservation Advisory Board 4:00 p.m.
- 9 Parks Committee 12:00 noon
- 12 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Clean Up Day 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 26 Board Meeting 7:30
- **26-29** Pumpkin Carving Contest

#### November

- 3 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30 p.m.
- 9 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Open Space Preservation Advisory Board 4:00 p.m.
- 11 Veterans Day Office Closed
- 12 Open Space Preservation Advisory Board 4:00 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

#### Nov. 27-Dec. 12 Holiday Wreath Sale

#### December

- 1 Zoning Board of Appeal 4:30 p.m.
- 3 Bridge Lighting / Trolley Treats and Tinsel
- 5 Annual Santa Parade
- 10 Open Space Preservation Board 4:00 p.m.
- 14 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 24-25 Christmas Holiday
- 31 New Years Holiday

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION (remove & save)

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 a.m.**-**5 p.m.
- Closed Holidays

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