



# *the* ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

## Tinsel, Treats and Trolley Expects Significant Growth for 2011 Event

Wintertime in Ada evokes images of snow-covered trees, frozen ponds and... trolleys?

TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT (TT&T) is a fun-filled evening when everyone in the community comes out to enjoy the beginning of the holiday season in downtown Ada. Local businesses open their doors late into the evening as a way to build community, promote their establishments, and thank customers for their patronage. Throughout the evening, the people of Ada are treated to singing groups for entertainment, trolleys for transportation, and many other unique treats. Even Santa makes a guest appearance.

TT&T begins at 6:00 pm on Friday night, December 2 with a bridge lighting ceremony at the Ada Covered Bridge. Then attendees spread into the village to visit the participating retail businesses and organizations. The trolleys will stop running at 9pm, however some restaurants and businesses will remain open later. This year, organizers expect the turnout to be very high, due in part to a minor change that seems to be making a significant difference.

"The organizing group of retailers decided to move this year's event from Thursday night to Friday night to better accommodate families and people who might not want to stay out on a work night," said 2011 TT&T Chairman Edward Kuo, who represents The Community church in downtown Ada. "As a result, we've seen the number of participating retailers and business almost triple. Everyone is very excited about this year's event," he added.

"Tinsel, Treats and Trolley really showcases downtown Ada businesses in a way that's exciting and vibrant. It's great to see friends, neighbors and families enjoying an evening filled with holiday spirit that brings a sense of community to Ada," said April Armstrong, President of the

Ada Business Association (ABA). The ABA and the Ada Downtown Development Authority (DDA) both underwrite a significant portion of the event.

Look for a full list of participating businesses and activities for the night on the Ada Township website, in the Cadence newspaper on Nov. 16, or at participating retailers in November.

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE – SATURDAY, DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup>

- **10:30 am** **PARADE LINE-UP**  
(Ada Drive/Thornapple Shopping Ctr.)
- **11:00 am** **PARADE BEGINS!**  
(The parade route will start at the Shopping Center, turn right on Thornapple and end at Fire Station #1)
- **11:30 am** **MEET SANTA, free hot Chocolate and cookies at Fire Station #1**  
(Compliments of the Ada Fire Association and Ada Business Association)

**A special appearance by  
Santa's favorite elf, Fireman Dave!**



## FIREFIGHTER OF THE ISSUE



### Lieutenant Brian Anderson

I'm a 3rd generation fire fighter following in my grandfather, Ken Anderson, and father, Daryl Anderson, footsteps. I love helping my fellow

neighbor's in their time of need. I've been in the community my entire life and looking forward to doing it the rest of my life. I couldn't do this without the support of my wife and our 3 boys who I hope one day will follow in my footsteps.

Brian has 15 years of service with the Fire Department, the last 6 as a Lieutenant.

## CMC CERTIFICATIONS

Clerk Susan Burton and Deputy Clerk Deb Thompson have both received their "Certified Municipality Clerk" designations this fall. This certification entails study and participation in State-wide programs that involve at least a three-year process. Congratulations to both our Clerk and Deputy Clerk for achieving their CMC!

## BOARD PACKETS

In an effort for more transparent Township government, we are publishing the information packets for the Township Board Meetings on our website, [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com). From the HOME page under "Quick Links" on the upper right side of the page, click on "Agendas/Minutes" where there will be a link to the current "Board Meeting Packet".

# Ada Historical Society & Museum

## Events December 2011, January and February 2012

**December 10, January 14, February 11**

**Membership Meeting**—Come join us in our efforts to explore and preserve Ada history. **10:30 AM** at the Museum

**November thru December 10, 2011**

**Holiday Wreath Sale**—Deck the halls! The Society hosts its annual wreath sale featuring beautiful, fresh-cut, Michigan evergreen wreaths with custom bows. **Dec. 1 3:00-7:00, Dec. 2 1:00-9:00, Dec. 3 9:00-6:00, Dec. 9 1:00-6:00, Dec. 10 9:00-6:00** The Barn



**December 2, 2011**

**Tinsel, Treats, and Trolley**—Find joy in Christmas past! The Society will participate in Ada's Holiday open house celebration. We will have holiday cards for kids to decorate, a holiday display, treats and hot cocoa. Come visit our Gift Shop for unique Ada items and our annual Wreath Sale in the barn. **6:00 - 9:00 pm** at the Museum

**December 3, 2011**

**Ada Santa Claus Parade**—When you come to the village to sneak a peek at Santa, stop by the museum for cookies and hot cocoa! **Parade begins at 11:00 am.** at the Museum

**Reminder... The museum is closed in January and February. Feel free to contact us at 676-9346 or at [adahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:adahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com) with any questions during that time.**

Hours of Operation: The Averill Historical Museum of Ada is open Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and also by appointment

### Contact Information

Address: 7144 Headley St., Ada

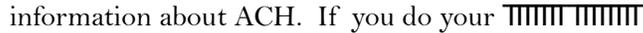
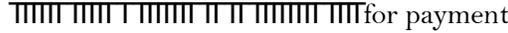
Phone: 616.676.9346

E-mail: [adahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:adahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com)

On the Web: [www.adahistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.adahistoricalmuseum.org)

## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER...

Winter tax bills were mailed the week of November 28, 2011. If you have not received it, please call our office to obtain another copy. All tax payments are due in our office by 5:00pm, Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Remember **POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED** as date received. After March 1, 2012 all unpaid real property taxes will be turned over to the Kent County Treasurers Office for collection.

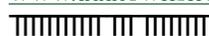
The usual payment options still apply; by mail, in person, or by credit card (*see the reverse side of your tax bill for instructions*). Credit cards are **NOT** accepted at the Township. Additionally, you may sign up for ACH electronic payments. Forms must be returned 15 days before payment is due. Please contact our office for more information about ACH. If you do your   for payment to reach us. As stated we do not accept postmarks or check dates as date received. We are not responsible for the date of delivery by the United States Postal Service.

Dog license are available at the Township starting December 1, 2011 through February 29, 2012. The State of Michigan requires all dogs age 4 months and older to be licensed. In order for a 2012 license to be issued, a current rabies certificate, and proof of neuter/spay must be presented. You can receive a copy of these through your veterinarian.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!!

Norm Rhoades, Treasurer  
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[nrhoades@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:nrhoades@adatownshipmi.com).

Gina Olszewski, Deputy Treasurer  
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[golszewski@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:golszewski@adatownshipmi.com).

  
[www.adatownshwipmi.com](http://www.adatownshwipmi.com)   


## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Ada residents may drop off their used natural Christmas trees to the back parking lot of Ada Park until Monday January 16th, 2011. They will be recycled into wood



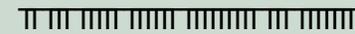
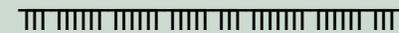
chips for use in the park. Please remove any decorations, wires, strings, ribbons or other items that might interfere with a chipper. Please no wreaths or garland.

## ADA FARMERS' MARKET AT TINSEL, TREATS & TROLLEY

Thinking of summer even before the winter storms have hit? Well, you can scratch that itch the evening of December 2 from 6 to 9pm downstairs at The Community church. Seventeen of the Market's best vendors will comprise a "mini" Market during Tinsel, Treats & Trolley. Their variety will range from Visser Farms' fresh lettuce and veggies, granola from Daily De-Lish, organic hand made pastas, herb blends and infused butters from S & R Ada Farms, wreaths, centerpieces and swags from The Flower Garden, hot sludge from Smitty's and much more. Be sure to join us for shopping at the Market for your holiday gifts and gift baskets for your family, friends and employees.

## KENT COUNTY #1 IN DEER-AUTOMOBILE CRASHES

Michigan drivers stand a one-in-90 chance of hitting a deer, State Farm reported. State Farm's report also showed Kent County held onto it's top ranking for such crashes in Michigan while the number of vehicle-deer crashes has dropped across the nation. Kent County had 1,976 crashes last year, followed by Oakland (1,836), Jackson (1,779), Calhoun (1,618), Lapeer (1,321) and Montcalm (1,319) counties.

  
  
[sburton@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:sburton@adatownshipmi.com)





# Ada Parks & Recreation Department

## Contact Information:

**Phone:** 616-676-0520 **fax:** 616-676-5870  
**E-mail:** [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com)  
**Web site:** [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)  
**Office** in Ada Park: 1180 Buttrick Ave, Ada, 49301  
**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 370, Ada, 49301  
**E-News:** To receive news and updates from the Parks & Recreation Department via e-mail send a request to: [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com)

“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, Park offices, Learning Center and Locke Arboretum.

**Leonard Field & Ada Covered Bridge** 2 acres 7490 Thornapple River Drive. Softball field, bike path, outdoor ice rink, Thornapple River overlook deck, Ada Covered Bridge.

**Grand River Natural Area** Grand River Drive SE Enter via Ada Park or McGraw Park, 110 acres Nature area, trails, bike path, woodlands, wetlands, Grand River shoreline.

**Roselle Park** 1010 Grand River Dr. NE, 247 acres Bike path, trails, cross-country ski trails, picnic area, observation decks, natural areas, wetlands, prairie, woods, Grand River shoreline.

## Facility Use

**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 a leash and cleaned up after in all parks.

### Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo Rentals and Reservations:

Available April through October. For rates, availability, use policies or reservations, contact the Park office. The Ada Covered Bridge is not rented out for private use.

**Athletic Fields & Courts:** Located at Ada Park and Leonard Field, used spring, summer and fall for leagues and instructional programs. Contact the park office for information, schedules or reservations.

## Winter Facilities

### Ice Rink at Leonard Field

An outdoor winter ice rink is set up at Leonard field and is available as the weather allows. It is open to the public for general skating. Children need to be supervised by a guardian.

### Cross Country Ski Trails at Roselle Park

Cross Country Ski trails are set up at Roselle Park and available as weather allows. The trails start near the silos and extend through the north section of the park. Trail markers are set up along the trail. Please do not walk or allow dogs on the x-c ski tracks.

### Walking & Bike Paths

Our best attempts will be made to clear the snow off of the paved park trail after each major snowfall. Note that conditions may remain wet, icy and/or slippery throughout the winter.

## Adult Programs

### Ada Adult Softball Programs 2012

Ada Parks & Recreation Department will start taking team applications for the 2012 adult spring/summer softball



program in February. Contact the Park Office at 676-0520 or email [rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com) for an application. We welcome new teams. Games are held at Ada Park and Leonard Field, Monday through Thursday evenings and some Saturdays. Fields are available for rental as schedules allow. Contact the Parks office for details and availability. A late summer/fall softball program will again be held in 2012. If you have a team that may be interested email: [rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com). Standings from this past season are posted at the Ada Township web site [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities:

Ada Parks & Recreation Department is recruiting Volunteers to assist in the following areas: Grounds, gardeners, odd jobs, ski trail groomers, trail monitors, habitat stewards, program instructors, clerical and office assistance and summer youth assistants (students welcome). Contact the Park office at 676-0502 or [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com) to apply or set up an interview.

# Ada Parks & Recreation Department

## Youth Programs

Pre-registration requested by calling 676-0520 or email [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com). Inside and outdoor activities - dress to be outside!

**Discovery Days** (preschoolers and parents)

**Ages 3-5 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Ada Park Learning Center \$5/youth**

**“Build a Bird Feeder”**

**Wednesday February 15 & Thursday February 16**

Learn what birds eat in the winter. Walk outside to look for birds. Make a bird feeder to take home.

**“Whooo are you?” Owls in Michigan**

**Wednesday March 14 & Thursday March 15**

Learn about owls and their amazing adaptations.

Be an owl or a mouse while you play “Hide & Squeak”.

## Junior Naturalist (ages 7 – 11)

**“Snowshoes Stomp”**

**Saturday January 21 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon**

**Ada Park Learning Center \$5/youth**

Learn about the history of snowshoes and how some animals survive with their own “built-in” snowshoes. Then venture outside for a fun snowshoe games and a walk through the Park. Snowshoes provided. Parents may drop off youth or stay to assist.

## School Based

### Programs

Opportunities for preK-12 schools and homeschoolers range from guided field trips in the parks (\$2/student), to

service learning projects (free) to shelter facilities for rent (\$25/day). Contact the Park office for details, curriculum, fees and scheduling.



### Boy and Girl Scout Programs:

Scout groups are welcome to the resources of Ada Parks & staff to help complete badge requirements, have field trip outings, conduct service projects or rent a facility. Contact the Park office for details, fees and scheduling.

## Family & General Programs

Pre-registration requested by calling 676-0520 or email [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com).

## Kent County Christmas Bird Count



**Saturday, December 31st**

**\$5/adult youth are free**

**Meet at WVEEC in Lowell at 7:30 a.m.**

Join the Grand Rapids Audubon Club and other bird enthusiasts for the annual Kent County Christmas Bird Count. Birders of all skill levels are needed to cover the 15-mile range. Meet at 7:30 a.m. for

instructions at the Wittenbach/Wege Ag/

Ed. Center in Lowell (11715 Vergennes Rd., 616-987-2565).

Then out to a field site by 8:00 a.m. Return back to the WVEE

Center for lunch. For more information or to pre-register

contact Ranger Steve by E-mail at [odybrook@chartermi.net](mailto:odybrook@chartermi.net)

or by phone 616-696-1753, or see [www.glsqa.org/grac.htm](http://www.glsqa.org/grac.htm).

## “Cross Country Skiing 101” – The Basics

**Saturday, January 14 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**Roselle Park \$5/adult \$3/youth**

Introductory lesson on cross-country ski equipment and techniques followed by a guided ski outing in the park.

Program is targeted for beginners and intermediates.

Pre-registration is appreciated by calling 676-0520 or

email. Pay on site. Bring your own skis. X-C skis

rentals available locally at Bills & Paul's Sporthaus,

1200 E. Paris SE, Grand Rapids 49546

616-458-1684 \$17/day \$34 /weekend.

## “Feed the Birds” – Make your own Bird feeder

**Saturday, February 11 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**Ada Township Park \$10/feeder**

Learn to identify local winter birds and how to attract

them. Then build a bird feeder to take home and put in

your yard. All materials and supplies provided. Plus find

out how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count!.

## “Live Birds of Prey: A Bird's Eye View”



**Tuesday, March 20**

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Ada Park Learning Center**

**\$5/adult \$3/youth**

Join us for a special Birds

of Prey presentation by the

Outdoor Discovery Center with

live birds (*owls, hawks, falcons*)

and hands-on artifacts such as skulls, feathers, pelts, and

talons. Get an up-close view of some of nature's incredible

feathered hunters and learn about their amazing adaptations.

**\*Pre-Registration required** as seating is limited.

**CALENDAR {2011 / 2012}**

**December**

- 2 Tinsel Treats & Trolley - 6:00 p.m.
- 3 Santa Parade - 11:00 p.m.
- 5 Downtown Development Authority - 8:30 a.m.
- 6 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 p.m.
- 8 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd - 4:00 p.m.
- 12 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)
- 26 Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)
- 30 New Years Holiday (Office Closed)

**January**

- 2 New Years Holiday (Office Closed)
- 3 Downtown Development Authority - 8:30 a.m.
- 3 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 p.m.
- 9 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd - 4:00 p.m.
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed)
- 17 Ethics Board Mtg - 6:15 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

**February**

- 6 Downtown Development Authority - 8:30 a.m.
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 p.m.
- 9 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd - 4:00 p.m.
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Presidents Day (Office Closed)
- 27 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 28 ELECTION DAY - Presidential Primary

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION** *(remove & save)*

AdaView is published by Ada Township Board.  
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616-676-9191  
[www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)

**HOURS:**

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Closed Holidays

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