



# .the. ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

## ENVISION ADA CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

With the construction of the Kingma's Market building and an adjacent new multi-tenant building on Ada Drive now well underway, attention is shifting to preparations for the reconstruction of Ada Drive between Headley Street and Fulton Street that will begin in March, 2017.



Access to Thornapple Village Shopping Center off Headley Street

A temporary driveway into the shopping center parking area off the new Headley Street extension has been completed and is now open for public use. This driveway provides access to all of the businesses located in the shopping center and to additional temporary parking installed to replace parking removed due to the current construction.

Major construction activity and traffic detours on Ada Drive between Fulton Street and Headley Street will begin in March. More detailed information regarding the start date, road closure timing and temporary access plans will be provided closer to the start date.



Follow the Ada Village Facebook page and the adamichigan.org web site for construction updates. You may also sign up to receive emailed construction updates as well as Township board and commission meeting notices by entering your email address in the **"SIGN UP NOW FOR EMAIL UPDATES"** box on the township web site home page – [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com).

## 25 YEARS AGO . . .

*From The Winter 1991 Adaview . . .*

Memories are shared of the "new township offices" in this winter 1991 edition. "Sunny Saturday, October 27, 1990, was ideal weather for the two-site dedication of NEW TOWNSHIP BUILDINGS. Awaiting the ceremony at the Ada Township Offices and hall (with pictures of township officials; Jim Sowle, Robert Den Braber, Barbara Sweetland, George Haga, and Rev. Gary Burdick), whose Congregation worshipped nearly a century and a half at the site when it was the First Congregational Church (UCC). Governor John Engler looks on as Clerk Sweetland and Trustee Jordon Sheperd prepare to cut the ribbons to officially open the facility."

The local boy scout troop had an official flag raising while Forest Hills Central High School marching band led all participants from the Township Offices dedication to that of Fire Station No. 1. A big celebration 25 years ago!!



**Note:** A limited number of "Cadence" issues are available at the Township offices, in the lobby, on Mondays.

If you would prefer receiving the AdaView via email, please email the Clerk's office at: [jsmith@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jsmith@adatownshipmi.com).

## ELECTIONS UPDATE

Voters went to the polls Tuesday, November 8, to elect candidates all the way from our local elected officials and state offices, to the President of our United States. Ada processed 2,500 absentee ballots before the election,



and had a total voter turnout of 80%. While we're sure you've already heard the national results, here in Ada we have just one new township official. Norm Rhoades, treasurer for the last eight years, did not seek reelection and is retiring. Kevin Moran, who ran and won his party race in the primary, will be officially sworn in as Ada Township Treasurer on November 21.

### Meet Kevin Moran, Ada's New Township Treasurer



Kevin has been married to his wife, Kim, for 18 years, and they have three daughters. Kevin has a degree in Financial Administration from Michigan State University and an MBA from Western Michigan University. Kevin is the owner of Acacia Group Property Management which is based in Ada. Aside from being a local business owner, Kevin volunteers at the Ada Historical Society, Safe Haven Ministries, Junior Achievement and Ada Bible Church. Kevin and his family attend Ada Bible Church.

## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE...

Winter tax bills will be mailed December 1, 2016. If you do not receive yours, please call our office to obtain another copy. All tax payments are due in our office by 5:00pm, Tuesday, February 14, 2017. **Remember the Township DOES NOT accept postmarks. The date received is considered date paid.** After March 1, 2017, all unpaid real property taxes will be turned over to the Kent County Treasurer's 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). Any payments made by credit/debit card will be charged a fee of **3% of the tax bill**. 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 banking on-line, **please allow a minimum of 10 business days** 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.

Since our office will be closed December 30, 2016 thru January 2, 2017, all tax payments **left in our drop box** will be considered as "PAID" December 31, 2016. **Please do not include any other Township payments with your tax payment. Thank you.**

**Have a safe and happy holiday season!!**

Kevin Moran, Treasurer 616-676-9191 ext 23  
kmoran@adatownshipmi.com

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

## DEPUTY RYAN ROE @ KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT, EAST PRECINCT

Good day Ada residents, this article is regarding speeding in our community.

The Kent County Sheriff's Office receives several calls a day related to vehicles speeding all over Kent County, many of these complaints come from neighborhoods. Speeding is a concern, and until we all have self-driving cars that can navigate the morning commute, we must pay better attention to how fast we are going.

Numerous factors are considered when determining a speed limit, one of which is the speed that the majority of traffic drives. It was surprising to me most of us without paying attention to how fast we are traveling will drive a reasonable speed, with that said, another and I believe the biggest factor in determining a speed limit is if the location is a residential Platte, or subdivision. Take a residential subdivision for example the speed limit is set at 25 MPH. This is because the close proximity of the homes and driveways including other roadways as well as foot traffic in the area is taken into consideration. The speed limit is set to be sure it is slow enough to stop quickly.

I have had the opportunity to use a driving simulator that many insurance companies have for distracted driving programs. It is always interesting to watch people participate in operating the simulator and text or make a phone call. The reaction time is the biggest factor. While in the simulator the person is hyper focused on staying in their lane and not speeding but when they need to stop suddenly or swerve that is when everyone notices that the person does not respond fast enough.

I understand driving distracted doesn't necessarily mean speeding, but I believe we all are driving distracted. Whether it is kids in the car yelling in the back seat or making that call to the office. Our mind is not focused on driving. **Driving is a task that demands focus and attention.**

I know we all can agree that we don't want our child involved in a crash. If everyone drives with that thought in mind, I know we can slow down especially in our neighborhood communities.

Be Safe and Aware,

Ryan



## ADA TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES



Colder weather and snow is upon us! Please be aware that the Ada Township Cemeteries (Ada & Findlay) will be cleaned up for the fall. We request that any/all ornamental items, free-standing things, be cleared away from each site by 11/21/16. Anything that may be left there will be removed (or thrown away) as we need it all

cleared away before the first snowfall. November 21 will also be the day that the Findlay cemetery gates will be closed for winter.

You never know what you will find when you start digging. Ken Wittenbach and Steve Koning from Dirt Cheap, Lowell, Michigan, began digging for a burial in Ada Cemetery, when they found this rock. After consulting with township staff, Ken and Steve brought the rock to the front of the cemetery and placed it near the front gate.



We are now looking for ideas. If you have a suggestion for a poem or saying (or any other idea) to place on this cool rock, please contact Jackie Smith, Clerk, at Ada Township, 676-9191 x 21 or [jsmith@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jsmith@adatownshipmi.com).



## "CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH RECYCLING"

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARK –  
DEC. 26 – JAN. 16, 2017**



Ada Township residents may drop off Christmas Trees and Wreaths for recycling to the back parking lot of Ada Township Park from December 26, 2016 through January 16, 2017, between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The trees will be recycled into wood chips while the wire from the wreaths will be recycled. Please remove any decorations, wires, strings, ribbons or other items from the trees that might interfere with a chipper.

Residential Christmas items only – no yard waste, trimmings or commercial businesses – Thanks.



## PLAN AHEAD FOR SUMMER 2017 ROAD CLOSURES

Thornapple River Drive and Buttrick Drive intersection area to be closed Saturday evening June 10, 6:00 p.m. through Saturday afternoon, June 11, 6:00 p.m. for the Grand Rapids Triathlon.

Ada Drive from East Fulton to the new Headley Street will have road closures March through July for road development and construction.

## ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Events for December 2016 and January and February 2017

#### Dec. 8, Jan. 12, and Feb. 9 - Monthly Board Meeting

1:00 pm at the museum. Board meetings are open to the public. We welcome your involvement. Join us to find out how we're making history! Please call or email with any questions.

#### November 18 – December 10\* – Wreath Sale Fundraiser

Do good and look good in one easy step! Let us help you with inspiration in decorating for the holiday season. Know that you will help preserve our community's history as you get into the holiday spirit. Check out the order form on our website for sale hours and more info. \*At the museum barn, while supplies last (or until sold)!

#### Holiday Wreath Sale Hours:

Friday, November 18	1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Saturday, November 19	10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Friday, November 25	1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Saturday, November 26	10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Friday, December 2	1:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday, December 3	9:00 am - 5:30 pm*
Friday, December 9	1:00 pm - 6:00 pm*
Saturday, December 10	10:00 am - 5:30 pm

#### Friday, December 2 – Tinsel, Treats, and Trolley

5:30 pm at the covered bridge then throughout the village. Ada village's annual holiday celebration begins with a bridge lighting ceremony, followed by trolley rides with stops at area venues from 6 p.m. until 9 pm. The museum will be open for a visit with Mrs. Claus, refreshments, and our Victorian Christmas display.

#### Saturday, December 3 - Ada-themed Gift Shop Sale & Santa Parade

Ho-ho-holy cow, it's the holidays already! The museum gift shop will be open 9 am- 4 pm highlighting Ada-themed items to help you fill Santa's bag. There will be cookies and hot chocolate in the barn beginning at 10:00 am before the Ada Santa Parade begins at 11:00 am.



*With all the forested hills in Ada township, lumber was a readily available resource in the early 1900s. This load c.1915 is Paul Bunyan sized!*

**January & February** – the museum is closed for visitation during these months, re-opening on March 3, 2017. Please contact AHS with any questions.

**In the Spirit of Things** Since its inception in 1974, AHS has been fortunate to receive ongoing support from members and the community. We simply could not operate the museum and host events without this generosity. We ask that you keep the museum in mind as we move into the season of giving. Please stop by the holiday wreath sale fundraiser, shop for unique Ada gifts in our gift shop, or present loved ones with a donation made in their honor. Please call or email AHS with any questions.

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

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



Contact Information  
7144 Headley St., Ada  
Phone: 616.676.9346

[adahistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:adahistoricalsociety@gmail.com)  
[www.adahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.adahistoricalsociety.org)



#### Shave and a haircut, 2 bits.

This was the view in Reams' Ada Barber Shop c. 1910. A fire destroyed this building and others nearby along Ada Dr. in 1920. It wasn't until 1958 that the elder Walter VanderWulp moved his Ada Barber Shop into a new building there which he shared with the Ada Post Office. The modern version of Ada Barber Shop has been in business—and had the same view—ever since.



## FARMERS MARKET

Creating a great farmer's market is part science and part intuitive detective work; selecting the right mix of vendors and products takes input from both. Sometimes it's pairing an anchor vendor – such as Crane Dance Farm - with an artisan bread maker or Michigan fish monger. If the market can sustain it, adding flower growers, bakers, or other artisan-food producers can make for more interesting shopping. Start-ups and 'cottage food' vendors selling items such as jams, tortilla or seasoning mixes for dips and sauces are also unique products we consider when looking at what our customers might appreciate and want to buy.

At other times it's about looking hard at the traffic we see at vendors with similar products. Sure, another vendor who supplies meats could be added, but are they both making money? We're careful of bringing in enough vendors to draw a good selection of shoppers, but not so many their overall profits are cannibalized.



For us at the Ada Farmers Market, it's also about choosing vendors who are local and part of our larger community. Offering smaller vendors a chance to sell at the market can get their business off the ground with buyers who like what they offer and might want to seek them out during the off season. It's a great way to build the community of food choices your family prefers by supporting their growth!

Finally, we rely on feedback from you, the shoppers who support the Market. When you've expressed an interest in a product we don't offer, we will seek out a vendor who might be a good fit or offer a suggestion to an existing farmer about expanding into that particular product line. Always feel free to connect with us on Facebook, Twitter or through our email address – [adafarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:adafarmersmarket@gmail.com) – if you have a suggestion or comment.



It's a dynamic process and you, the consumer, are no small part of the progression toward that perfect mix of products; one where the vendors are profitable and your family's table is full of vibrant, fresh local foods.

And speaking of thanks, a big thank-you goes to our site host, The Community Church. Their generosity is the biggest gift we receive every year. They have several events during the year for the community at large so if you have space on your calendar, please consider returning their kindness by attending and supporting their mission. The next event is their Ada Chili and Beer Festival and more information can be found here: <http://thecommunity-ada.org/#>

Thank you for continuing to support what we do each Tuesday during the season. Have a warm, safe holiday season and we will see you next year on Tuesday, June 6th!

## 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, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, Michigan 49301

**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 & PRESERVES

**Ada Township Park & Locke Arboretum** 1180 Buttrick Ave. 57 acres. Parks office, Learning Center and Arboretum. Athletic fields, tennis courts, playground, pond, trails, picnic areas.

**Roselle Park** 1010 Grand River Dr. NE. 247 acres. Rest rooms, meeting room, picnic area, playground, paved and non-paved trails, observation decks, natural areas, Grand River shoreline.

**Leonard Field Park & Ada Covered Bridge** 7490 Thornapple River Dr. 2 acres. Softball field, bike path, Thornapple River overlook.

**Grand River Natural Area** Grand River Drive SE. 110 acres. Enter via Ada Park. Trails, bike path, Grand River shoreline.

**Carl Creek Crossings Preserve** 6230 Grand River Drive. 8 acres. Trails, creek access. No facilities.

## FACILITY USE

**Park Hours:** Park grounds are open daily dawn to dusk.

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

**Motorized** recreation vehicles are not allowed.

**Alcohol** is not allowed in the parks or park facilities.

**Walking & Bike Paths:** Located throughout the Township and the Parks. Maps available.

**Facility Reservations and Rentals:** Contact the Park office for scheduling and fees.

**Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo:** Available April - October.

**Roselle Park meeting room:** Available on a limited basis for education programs, non-profit groups, Ada community groups and local businesses.

**Athletic Fields:** For public use, area leagues and instructional programs.

**Basketball & Tennis Courts:** Open to public except during scheduled programs.



## UPDATES ON ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS

### PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN

The Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department and the Township's Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board are working to update the Township's Community Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan. This is a revision of the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan available on our website. We would like your input and comments. Please plan to attend the public input session or contact the park office.

#### Public Input Session

**Parks, Recreation and Land Program Plan  
Roselle Park meeting room  
Thursday, December 1, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Presentation at 7:00 p.m.**

### ADA TOWNSHIP PARK:

The Shelter and Gazebo are now closed for the winter. They will re-open late March. Reservations for the 2017 season (April-October) will start in December for Ada Township residents.

### ROSELLE PARK

• Reservations for the meeting room in the new building are now open for school groups, local non-profits and Township community groups. Contact the park office for details.



• Our fund-raising and "Wish List" for the new building continues. Check with the park office for details.

• Cross country ski trails in the north section will be available as weather permits.

### LEONARD FIELD

Having an ice rink at Leonard Field is always weather dependent. If we get a good block of "freezing" temperature days in a row we will try again.

### ANNUAL GIFTS

For making contributions, memorial gifts or donations to support park projects and programs, please contact the Park office for details and assistance. All are tax deductible.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are available to assist with grounds, gardens, trails, habitat stewardship, clerical and youth programs. Contact the Park office for an application or schedule of events.



### JOB POSTING: KID'S GARDEN COORDINATOR

Part time, hourly. Contact the Park office for details. Experience with gardens and youth required.



## ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

We will begin accepting 2017 softball team registrations in February 2017. Team registration forms and fees are due by March 17, 2017. The entry fee is \$725 per team which includes softballs, umpires fees, team awards, MASA sanction fees and league tournament. League play starts on May 1, 2017. For forms or more information contact the Park office at 616-676-0520 or [rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com).



#### YOGA SESSIONS

**Mondays, Jan. 9 – March 27**  
**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Roselle Park Building \$10 per session**

A mindful vinyasa style yoga flow of breath and movement offering guided modifications and assistance designed for everyone and every body type. Pre-register through the park office.  
 MIND.BODY.SOULutions

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

#### "CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING – THE BASICS" Saturday, January 28

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00a.m.**  
**Roselle Park Building \$5 person**  
 An introduction to cross-country skiing with information on ski equipment and techniques, followed by a guided ski outing in the park. Geared for beginning and intermediate skiers. Pre-registration is requested. Bring your own skis or rent from area vendors (rentals available locally at Bill and Paul's Sporthaus, 616-458-1684).



#### "MICHIGAN WOODPECKERS" & SUET FEEDERS

**Saturday, February 11**  
**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
**Roselle Park \$10/Feeder Kit**

Learn about Michigan's amazing woodpeckers – what they eat, their awesome adaptations, and how to attract them to your yard. Make a suet feeder to take home to put up in your yard. All materials and supplies will be provided. Pre-registration is required, \$10/feeder kit.

#### MICHIGAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

**Thursday, March 23**

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Roselle Park \$5 person**

Frogs, Snakes, Turtles, Lizards, Oh My! This presentation by the Outdoor Discovery Center will feature live reptiles and amphibians for you to see and learn about. Plus artifacts including skins, skulls, eggs, and shells of several species native to Michigan.



### YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pre-registration requested by calling (616) 676-0520 or email [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com)

#### DISCOVERY DAYS

**Ages 3-5; 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon**  
**Ada Park \$5/youth/session**

**Parents join with pre-schoolers for nature study, hand-on activities and games. Inside and outdoors activities.**

**"Brave Bears" Wed., December 7**

**"Wonderful Winter" Wed., January 11**

**"Build a Bird Feeder" Wed., February 8**



#### "SNOWSHOE STOMP! Ages 8-12

**Saturday, January 28 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Roselle Park \$5/youth**

Snowshoe through the fields and trails of Roselle Park and play some fun snowshoe games! Learn about the history of snowshoes and how some animals survive with their own "built-in" snowshoes. Snowshoes and snacks are provided. Winter boots suggested.

#### 2017 SUMMER DAY CAMPS

**For Ages 6-12 (teens may volunteer to help)**

We offer a full summer of youth programs in the format of 3-day long Day Camps and half and full day events. Camp sessions are held at both Ada and Roselle Parks. The 2017 program information and registration packet will be available at the end of February. Contact the Park office for details.



#### ADA VILLAGE KIDS' GARDEN For ages 9-12

**Next to Ada Community Church**

Runs Tuesdays, after school in the spring and fall, mornings in the summer. Details available in January.

#### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Opportunities for preK-12 schools range from guided field trips in the parks, to service learning projects to shelter facilities for rent. 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.

Forest Hills Girls Scout Day Camp will be held at Ada Township Park June 12-15.



# TOWNSHIP

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE  
P.O. Box 370  
Ada, Michigan 49301

PRSR. STD.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 657

## CALENDAR (2016) WINTER ISSUE

### DECEMBER

- 1 Winter tax bills mailed (due 2/14/17)
- 1 Public Input Session – Parks, Rec & Land Program Plan 6P - 8:30P
- 2 Annual Bridge Lighting Ceremony 5:30P
- 2 Annual Tinsel, Treats, & Trolley 6-9P
- 3 AHS cookies & hot chocolate in the barn before the parade 10A
- 3 Annual Santa Parade 11A
- 3 Annual Chili & Beer Festival 12-3P
- 6 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- 8 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting 1P
- 12 Downtown Development Authority 8A
- 12 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P
- 15 Planning Commission 7P
- 23 **Christmas Holiday - Township Office Closed**
- 26 **Christmas Holiday - Township Office Closed**
- 26 Christmas Tree & Wreath Recycling Ada Township Park (Dec 26-Jan 17, 2017)
- 30 **New Year's Holiday - Township Office Closed**

### JANUARY

- 2 **New Year's Holiday - Township Office Closed**
- 3 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- 9 Downtown Development Authority 8A
- 9 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P
- 12 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting 1P
- 12 Parks, Rec & Land Preservation Advisory Board 4P
- 16 **Martin Luther King Jr Day - Township Office Closed**
- 19 Planning Commission 7P
- 23 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P

### FEBRUARY

- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- 9 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting 1P
- 9 Parks, Rec & Land Preservation Advisory Board 4P
- 13 Downtown Development Authority 8A
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P
- 14 TAX PAYMENTS due at Township Office by 5P
- 16 Planning Commission 7P
- 20 **Presidents' Day - Township Office Closed**
- 27 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*(remove & save)*

**AdaView** is published by **Ada Township Board**.

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE  
P.O. Box 370,  
Ada, Michigan 49301  
[www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)

**TELEPHONE:** (616) 676-9191

**HOURS:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F, closed Federal holidays

**ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD:**

### SUPERVISOR

George Haga, Ext. 50, [ghaga@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:ghaga@adatownshipmi.com)

### CLERK

Jackie Smith, Ext. 21, [jsmith@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jsmith@adatownshipmi.com)

### TREASURER

Kevin Moran, Ext. 23, [kmoran@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:kmoran@adatownshipmi.com)

### TRUSTEES

Dan Hurwitz, [djhurwitz@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:djhurwitz@adatownshipmi.com)

Catherine Jacobs, [cjacobs@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:cjacobs@adatownshipmi.com)

Paul LeBlanc, [pleblanc@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:pleblanc@adatownshipmi.com)

Bob Proos, [rproos@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rproos@adatownshipmi.com)

**Editor:** Jackie Smith, Ada Township Clerk

**Co-Editor:** Elaine Buckley

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