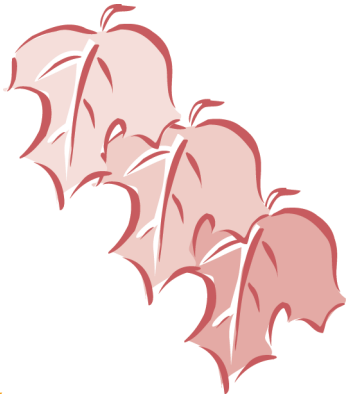


# THE ADAVIEW

Personality May Open Doors, but Only Character Will Keep Them Open.



## Inside this Issue:

Historical Ada

Halloween Tale

Note from the Clerk

Election Updates

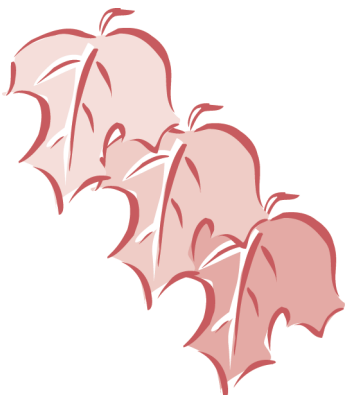
Note from the Treasurer

Note from the Supervisor

News from the Park

4th of July Parade Winners

Halloween Tips.... and more



## FALL CLEAN UP!

The semi-annual Ada Township "Clean Up Your Act" day will be  
**8AM-2:30PM Saturday October 30th, 2004 at the Kent County Road  
Commission** on Fase St. 8AM-2:30PM

Please remember that you must live within Ada or Cascade Township to drop off  
any trash, household items or yard waste.

### **No Tires or Toxins Accepted**

If you any questions about items that are disposable on this day please contact  
Clerk Deb Millhuff at millhuff@ada.mi.us or 676-9191 or  
Wendy at: parkwendy@ada.mi.us or 676-0520  
(more information on the spring clean up is inside this edition)

## HALLOWEEN

at the Fire Stations

#1 Fulton & Bronson St.

#2-7211 Knapp NE

Saturday October 30th

6PM-9PM

Free Cider

Candy

Apples

Entertainment

**FUN! FUN! FUN!**



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

Wondering how you can feel safer and more snug in your home?  
Asking yourself "What can I do to help make my neighborhood a safer place?"

Interested in what is going on in Ada and your neighborhood?

Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday October 12th, 2004

Ada Township Hall

If you have any question please contact:

Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff

Phone: (616) 676-9191

ext: 20 or 21

e-mail : millhuff@ada.mi.us

## RIX ROBINSON

*By Steve Harrington*

It is true enough that Rix amassed a fortune and owned many hundreds of acres of valuable farmland. This occurred at a time when Native Americans indigenous to the area were forced out. Rix was the chief negotiator for these tribes and traveled to Washington, D.C. to forge a deal, in 1835, with the United States government on their behalf.

Rix came out of the negotiations a rich man. Debts Native Americans owed to him were paid and he was granted a large tract of land for his negotiating services. So, the question remains. Was Rix a good guy or a bad guy?

The answer is not a simple one as Rix was a complicated man. Born on the East Coast and trained as a lawyer, his values were mostly fixed by the time he came to Ada Township in 1821. There is little documentation regarding Rix's character. Instead, we must look to his actions and the actions of those around him.

We must first recognize Rix as a shrewd businessperson. That is why he was hired by John Jacob Astor to take over the LaFramboise fur trading network based in Lowell. Rix, anxious to take advantage of the Native American fur trading traffic on the Thornapple and Grand rivers moved his headquarters to the banks of the Grand on property now owned by Alticor.

Fur trading was a lucrative business. Magdelaine LaFramboise ran her operation for about 20 years and retired to Mackinac Island as Michigan's first millionaire. As half Ottawa, she enjoyed the power of kinship with the local Native Americans with whom she traded. Rix was the first European trader in the region and had to build relationships with Native Americans.

Rix was remarkably successful in building those relationships and his trading empire extended from near Chicago to the Straits of Mackinac. Yes, Rix was a shrewd businessman. But Native Americans must have also found him to be a fair man or they would not have traded with him in such great numbers.

Another clue to Rix's character is the fact that when it came to negotiating with the U.S. government, local Native Americans agreed to travel to Washington, D.C. only if Rix would act as negotiator on their behalf.

After many weeks of wrangling, Rix and tribal leaders emerged with a deal all could live with. Paramount to the agreement was a provision that allowed Native Americans to retain portions of their land on which they could live. But when the U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of 1836, that key provision was missing. At

an autumn meeting on Mackinac Island, the Native Americans were forced to accept terms of the Treaty as they had counted on food distributions in the original treaty to survive the winter of 1836-37.

The Treaty of 1836 turned out to be a bad deal for local Native Americans as they were forced to live in northern Michigan or on reservations in the wilderness. But that did not stop them from granting Rix valuable farmland in return for his negotiating efforts.

What are other clues to Rix's personality? Rix was elected Kent County's first supervisor and went on to represent West Michigan as state senator. There was even talk of drafting Rix for a run as governor of the state. Surely Rix must have been viewed as an honest, personable man to have been elected to such posts.

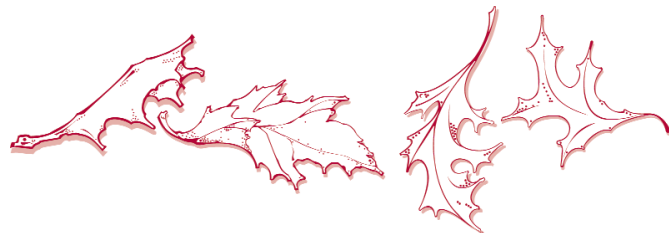
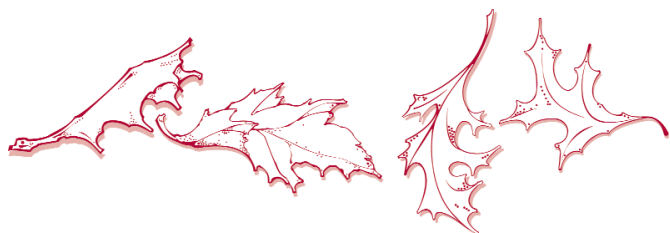
Rix also had a keen sense of humor. In his later years he owned a sawmill on the Grand River near Grand Haven. During a long, stormy period, logs stored in bayous began breaking away and floating downstream. Rix wrote a terse order, published in a local newspaper, to the logs requiring them to stay put.

Rix had a soft spot for his only child to live to adulthood, John R. Early in his life, John R. was a rascal. He was known to drink heavily, was lazy, and stayed out late. Despite his character flaws, John R. was always able to get money from his father for a fool-hardy business venture. Apparently Rix readily gave in to his son, who lost large sums over a period of years.

Rix did not demonstrate a spiritual side until late in life. But there is evidence that Rix was a deeply spiritual person throughout most of his life. He accepted Christianity late in life after his son had become a Methodist preacher.

Perhaps the most compelling evidence of Rix's spiritual life is found in the well-worn prayer book he owned. The book, published in 1815, is marked at several key passages that reveal Rix's sensitive side. The prayer book is currently on loan to the Averill Historical Museum of Ada where it is on display until September 30. It is owned by the Loutit Library of Grand Haven.

To find out more about Rix Robinson, or to get a glimpse of his prayer book, stop in to the museum across from the Ada Post Office on Headley Street in Ada.



# THE HORSEMAN RETURNS

By DE Mills

(To be read by firelight on a cold and windy autumn night)

Just before midnight at the old wooden covered bridge the October to November wind is stirring in the village and a woman whom some said was a witch lived a stone throw away began to work her magic past down from generations of those special people whom asked only for justice for those whom had been wronged.

"Rise up once more, Rise up, Horseman!  
Come forth again through the Tree of the Dead...  
Come now for those whom have lied about  
other and me townsmen!"

The distance whistle of the ghost train eerily starts to blow and between the railroad tracks and the bridge, a large oak tree starts to twist and groan and slowly comes to life. In the blink of an eye a headless shape on a horse emerges from the tree and gallops towards the center of town.

On the north side of the township, a faint blue light is seen behind a farmhouse, sending the animals into a nervous frenzy. The old woman whom has lived in the home built by her grandparents for 87 years turned on the light at the back door to investigate. All she finds is a patch of burnt grass and some garments missing from her clothesline. As she turns to go into the house a blast of cold wind with the exhaust of a fireball on its tail blows her from her porch where she lands on a bundle of clothes filled with horsehair and the smell of kerosene. She remembers a similar night from her childhood and quickly calls her dog from the barn, goes into her home, locks the doors and draws the blinds ...knowing that for someone in the town this would be a night of no return.

Elsewhere, The Town Crier Mr. Lyman returns home after a meeting he had organized to run innocent townsman from their busi-

nesses and homes under the dark deception of his fabrications and misdirection so he could gain power and property for his own. He was very proud of the crafty web he had weaved through the art of spreading untruth to the townspeople without a shred of facts included; how foolish he thought they all were.

Strutting into his home he headed to the kitchen where he kept hidden from his wife a bottle of 30 year old bourbon. Just as he started to pour a shot the front door bursts open, and there stands the Headless Horseman, axe drawn, without hesitation the Horseman swings his axe at Mr. Lyman whom dropped the bottle and grabs a poker from the fire and the battle begins.

The next morning the crier's wife awakes after sleeping more soundly than she had since her wedding night to an empty house ... the only peculiar item was a broken whiskey bottle in her kitchen...As she swept the glass pieces from the floor wondering where had her husband gone so early and why when neither of them drank why was there a broken whiskey bottle in her kitchen...smiling and pouring herself a cup of coffee she looked out at the river thinking how nice it was realizing this was the first quite morning she had been able to enjoy in the 45 years she had been married.

Legend has it that every Halloween since Mr. Lyman's disappearance just before the October and November winds meet if you listen carefully the ghost train whistle blows softly, a moaning is heard from the oak tree, horse hoofs are heard on the old Covered bridge and if you don't blink you may see a burst of light, feel the cold wind followed by a warm sensation and see the figure of a headless horseman riding out to rid the town of liars and cheats.



## A Note from the Treasurer

A beautiful Fall brings beautiful leaves, but they all fall to the ground. However, we can help! Leaf bags for you are available. If you are a senior, they are free. If not, bags are 50 cents each at the treasurer's counter.

Just a reminder...dogs that want a new license may need their immunizations updated. December 1st through March 1st the Treasurers office can issue the 2005 dog license. Also, Winter Tax Bills will be mailed out December 1,2004. If you have any questions regarding your taxes contact me at (616) 676-9191 ext: 23.

On a more personal note I will be leaving my position as Township Treasurer on November 20th and want to take the time to say Thank You! I have enjoyed my 12 years of service and will miss seeing residents on a daily basis, but I am looking forward to being involved in the community as a private citizen



### Have a Great Fall!

Carolyn Soderberg

## Note from the Supervisor

The Township Board and I welcome the input of all the residents we represent. Below is a schedule of all the official Ada Township Meetings. If any Ada Township Resident 18 years or older is interested in serving on the planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals, please contact me at (616) 676-9191 ext: 50 or ghaga@ada.mi.us.

### Office open Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

#### except for the following holidays:

November 11	Veterans Day
November 25	Thanksgiving Day
November 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
December 27	Office Closed
December 31	New Years Eve

### 2005

January 03	New Years
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 21	Presidents Day

### Meeting Schedule

#### Ada Township Board Meeting

2nd and 3rd Monday 7:30 PM

October 11th

October 25th

November 8th

November 22nd

December 13th

#### Planning Commission

3rd Thursday 7:30 PM

October 21st

November 18th

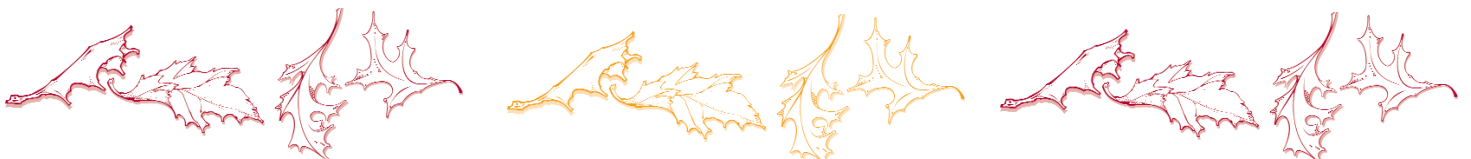
December 16th

#### Zoning Board of Appeals

1st Tuesday 4:30 PM

October 5th

November 2nd



## A NOTE FROM THE CLERK

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming November Presidential Election please contact me at:  
millhuff@ada.mi.us or (616) 676-9191 ext: 21 or 20

### Ada Township Board Candidates August Primary Election Winners!

#### SUPERVISOR:

George Haga

#### CLERK:

Deborah Ensing Millhuff

#### TREASURER:

Diane Fase Pratt

#### TRUSTEES:

Randy Damstra

Bob Proos

Mischelle D Sytsma

John Westra

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Tuesday November 2, 2004 is the Presidential General Election!

#### VOTE!

Local Candidates for November Tuesday 2, 2004

#### SUPERVISOR:

George Haga (I) ®

William Wood\*\*

#### CLERK:

Deborah Ensing Millhuff (I) ®

Dolores White\*\*

#### \*TREASURER:

Diane Fase Pratt ®

#### \*TRUSTEES:

Randy Damstra ®

Bob Proos ®

Mischelle D Sytsma ®

John Westra ®

---

(I) Incumbent Candidate

® Republican Candidate

\*\* No Party Affiliation Candidate

\* The Treasurer and Trustee positions have no opposition in November

### *Election Questions??*

*Please contact your Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff, CMC*

*millhuff@ada.mi.us or*

*(616) 676-9191 ext: 21 or 20 M-F 8AM-5PM*

*Your may cross party or straight party vote in the November Election!*

***2004! It Counts!***

## HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN:

The Celts believed that souls of the dead visited the earth every October 31.

- All Hallows Eve was the evening before All Saints Day, which is celebrated on November 1.
- In Mexico, they celebrate El Dia de los Muertos or the Day of the Dead starting the evening of October 31.
- Halloween also marks the end of harvest season. The end of October marks the time that pastures and fields dry up. The animals were brought in from the pasture to be butchered and the remaining vegetables left in fields and gardens were left to rot. This part of the season often brought about reminiscence of loved ones that were lost.
- In 1800's people started to have parties. Part of the celebrations included costumes, fortune telling and games such as bobbing for apples.
- At the turn of the century, cities were overcrowded and Halloween marked the time to let off steam by playing practical jokes such as turning over outhouses. By the 1930's things had gotten out of hand and serious damage was being done on Halloween. There was a movement to have children go door to door and ask for candy as an alternative to vandalism.



## KENT COUNTY PDR APPLICATIONS SOUGHT

Kent County is currently accepting applications for the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program, in which owners of agricultural land may sell their development rights to the County. Applications must be submitted by November 30.

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated against established selection criteria by the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board.

The purpose of the program is to preserve large blocks of important agricultural lands in Kent County, and maintain agriculture as an important component of the Kent County economy.

Details concerning the application process are available from Kendra Wills of the Kent/MSU Extension Office, at 336-2028.



## RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES!

**WHERE:** Look for the blue plastic bin just inside the front door of the Township Office.

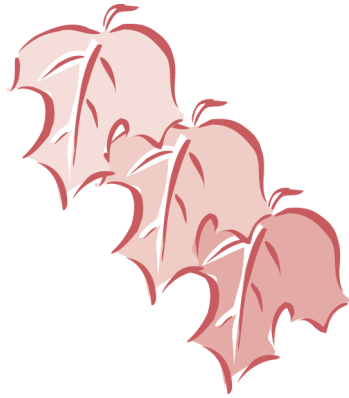
**WHEN:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**WHAT:** Used household batteries, including dry cell, alkaline and rechargeable batteries from radios, cassette recorders, toys, cameras, flashlights, smoke detectors, calculators, hearing aids, watches and computers.

**WHAT NOT:** Auto batteries are not accepted. Exchange them at time of purchase of a new battery.

**WHY:** Helps prevent release of hazardous substances into the groundwater at landfill sites, or into the air from solid waste incinerators.

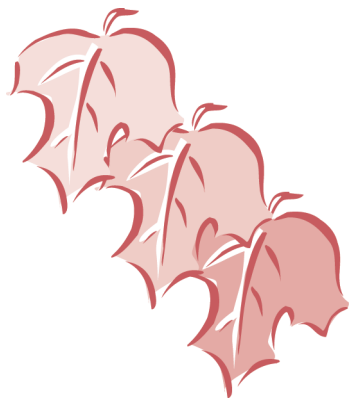
***MAINTAINED IN COOPERATION WITH  
THE KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.***



## FALL CLEAN UP PICK-UP DATES

For everyone in the Burn Restricted Area you may purchase Leaf Bags for 50 cents at the Township Hall (Free to Senior Citizens)

Pick-up Dates  
Tuesday October 19, 2004  
Tuesday November 9, 2004  
Tuesday November 23, 2004



### Trash Day

Saturday  
October 30th  
8AM - 2:30PM

## EAST PRECINCT

The Kent County Sheriff Department is proud to announce the official opening of the new East Precinct office, located at 877 Forest Hill Ave S.E. The new East Precinct concept was established through the cooperative efforts of Ada, Cascade, and Grand Rapids Townships and will serve as a partnership for more effective policing within the three participating townships.

The Precinct will provide citizens with an additional location for services including gun purchase permits, gun registrations, CCW packets, sex offender registry, employment and background checks, filing walk-in accident reports and the purchasing of police/incident reports. The East Precinct Office Hours will be Monday through Thursday, 8:30a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The staffing of the East Precinct will include a Records Clerk, two area Detectives, two Community Police officers, two School Resource Officers and a combined total of twenty township and district patrol officers assigned to the area. Lt. Bill Weston, currently assigned as the East Precinct Commander, will be working in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and Cascade, Ada, and Grand Rapids, Townships.

**Please remember you still need to dial 911 for all emergencies and 632-6100 for non-emergency calls.**

We look forward to serve you in the upcoming year,

*Lt. Bill Weston*

*East Precinct Commander*

## DEMOLITION UNDERWAY AT ROSELLE PARK

Demolition of the former beef processing facilities at the Roselle Park property began recently, and will be completed before winter arrives. H&M Demolition of Holland, Michigan is the contractor completing the work.

The work is being completed using environmentally-friendly practices. Fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts, batteries and possible mercury-containing switches are being separated and collected for recycling and removal of hazardous components such as lead and mercury.

Concrete rubble will be crushed on site and stockpiled for future use as a trail surface or parking lot base material.

Completion of demolition will clear the way for the first phase of park improvements. Planning is underway to apply for State grant funds in Spring, 2005, for a major park project that would be undertaken in 2006.



## Publication Notes . . .

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8 am to 5 pm  
Closed Holidays

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## WEATHER WATCH

(Information from Meteorologist George Lessens of WZZM)  
**Autumn in Ada**

Warmest...57.5.. 1931	Most Snow...28.6" ...1895
Coldest... 45.8 .. 1976	Least Snow ...trace...1984
Last Year... 49.9	Last Year ... 4.3"
Average ... 51.8	Average...8.3"
Wettest ... 17.68" ... 1988	Sunniest ...63.3% ...1938
Driest ... 2.59" ... 1956	Cloudiest... 23.9% 1926
Last Year ...10.63" ...(41st wettest)	Last Year 49.0%
	Average 42.0%

## INDEPENDENCE DAY FLOAT WINNERS!

### 1st place

#### Salute to the Veterans

Thompson/Finney Families

### 2nd Place

#### Rock This Country

Covert/Sprengers, Lemires & Sitarski Families

### 3rd Place

#### Piston Stars

Ada Family Hair Care

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

The Ada Township Board and staff are always interested in your comments and ideas. Please, contact us at the Ada Township Hall 7330 Thornapple River Drive PO Box 370 Ada MI 49301 or by accessing our web site at [www.ada.mi.us](http://www.ada.mi.us), we are very interested in what you have to say so please do not hesitate to share your concerns and/or ideas.

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM (616) 676-9191

