

Publication Notes . . .

Ada View is published by Ada Township Board
7330 Thornapple River Drive SE
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Hours:
Monday - Friday
8 am to 5 pm
Closed Holidays

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Printed by
Falcon Printing
616-676-3737

Attention Ada Residents

you are cordially invited to share a day of Harvest Celebration with our Lowell neighbors!

October 11, 2003
Arts and Craft Show

9AM-4PM
Scarecrow Hoedown

10AM-2PM
Chili Cook-Off
Cooking starts at 11AM
Tasting starts 3PM
Live Music 4PM-7PM
Free Museum and Historic Home Tours
10AM-5PM
Flat River Antique Fair

10AM-5PM
Harvest Sales & Open House

For further information please call
(616) 897-9161

Weather Facts June-August

Average temp: 69.3°
Warmest: 74.7° 1955
Coldest: 65.5° 1992

Average Rain Fall: 11.01"
Wettest Summer: 22.63" 1994
Driest Summer: 3.08" 1894

Average Sunshine: 65%
Sunniest: 77.5% 1993
Cloudiest: 50.3% 1915

Curtains Up!

Volunteers Needed for Opening Show of the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center! Planning has begun for the opening show of the Forest Hills Public Schools Fine Arts Center. Volunteers are needed for the following committees: set construction, costumes/dresses, dressing room coordinators, makeup, stage crew and props, box office, ushers, producers, publicity, concessions. Anyone who wants to join the excitement is invited to call Rose or Barb at 493-8950.

Community Invited to Audition

Performers Needed for Opening Musical Review The new Fine Arts Center will open with an original musical review written to bring students and community together in celebration of the arts and our new facility. Performers will include students, staff and community members and Forest Hills alumni.

Actors, singers, dancers, artists, musicians and other unique artistic talents will be celebrated in this showcase of the arts. Although the official opening date has not been scheduled, it is expected to open in April 2004.

Open auditions are scheduled for October 25, 2003: ages 5-13: 9:00 a.m. -Noon, all others, 1-5:00 p.m. Please call 493-8950 for audition location information. Audition packets are available and will be mailed upon request.

Preparations for auditions include: prepare a song or Capella or an accompaniment will be provided. Dress comfortably. It is not necessary to prepare for reading.

THE ADAVIEW

"Only You Can Be Yourself, No One Else Qualifies for the Job."

HALLOWEEN AT THE FIRE STATIONS

#1 Fulton & Bronson

#2 7211 Knapp

Friday October 31 6PM-9PM

Free Cider Candy, Donuts & Entertainment

FUN! FUN! FUN!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Ada Historical Society
- Halloween Tale
- Note from the Clerk
- Note from the Treasurer
- News from the Park
- 4th of July Parade and
- Quizzical Hunt Winners
- Neighborhood Watch Update.
- Safety Tips.... and more

FALL CLEAN UP!

The bi-annual Ada Township "Clean Up your Act" day will be Saturday, October 25th, 2003 at the Kent County Road Commission on Fase St. 8AM-3PM

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 on this day please contact the clerk's office at 676-9191 or the park office at 676-0520...



(Additional information on the spring clean up is inside this edition)

EAGLE ROOSTING SPOT NOW PERMANENTLY PRESERVED

The bald eagles frequently seen perched in the trees above the confluence of the Grand and Thornapple rivers near the M-21 bridge for the past several winters will now have the assurance their prime fishing spot will not be lost to a bulldozer or ax. The Ada Township Board unanimously approved the purchase of the property for \$10,000 from Bob and Helen Logee (formerly of Ada Township).

The 19-acre wooded site was purchased by the Township with funds from the "Parks and Land Preservation" Millage approved by Township voters in November 2002. Thank you to Bob and Helen Logee for allowing us to acquire and preserve this attractive and highly-visible natural area which abuts with the 2 1/2 acre sight purchased by the township from MDOT a few years ago.

BOYNTON SCHOOL

by David Anderson 391 Boynton

This building is located on the southeastern-most corner of Section 25 in Ada Township as it borders Vergennes Township. This building is one of Ada Township's one-room schoolhouses (District 4 fractional). The term "fractional" was used to note its students came from both Ada and Vergennes townships. Ada had nine schools at the turn of the century.

391 Boynton (Boynton School) is of frame construction with an original size of 24 feet by 36 feet, sitting on a cement block foundation with eight windows and lap wood siding painted white with a wood shake roof. The interior is comprised of 12-foot high ceilings, 1 by 4-foot window trim, plaster wall sheeting and a maple varied-width tongue and groove wood floor, wood-burning stove, indoor water pump. The location also had a wood shed and two out houses.

The location of the Ada schools is of great interest to history buffs and Ada residents. Documents near the turn of the 1900's showed schools located at numerous sites that are now void of any signs of the schools today. Several sites still have signs of the buildings existence and/or remodeled residences.

These locations are: ADA 1, Ada, Ada Drive (Amway fitness center). ADA 2 River school, northeast corner of Pettis and Egypt Valley (Rieth-Riley office). ADA 3 Carl School, northwest corner of Carl Drive and Grand River, this school was moved to downtown Ada and is now known at the Little Red Schoolhouse. ADA 4 Honey Creek School, located near the entrance to Siedman Park off Conservation, today only the foundation can be seen. ADA 4 Fractional Boynton School, northwest corner of

Vergennes and Boynton, still standing. ADA 6 Fractional Farrell School, northwest corner of McCabe and 2-Mile Road. Only the foundation can be seen today. This school was located on land that was owned by a Mr. Farrell whose family has owned this land since the original land grants of the

1830's. ADA 8 Fractional Egypt Valley (Chapel), northwest corner of 3-Mile Road and Egypt Valley Road, nothing remains of the school today. ADA 12 Fractional Atwater School shared with Grand Rapids Township, southwest corner of 3-Mile Road and Grand River, this



school is still standing and has been remodeled into a residence. ADA 13 Chase School on the east side of Honey Creek just south of Knapp Street. It is currently a remodeled residence.

* * *

Anecdotes about old-time school days in the one-room schools are found in oral histories given to the Ada Historical Society. Often the older boys had to miss a lot of school to help harvest the crops.

There would be a woodshed at the school and the school board had the responsibility of keeping it full of wood.

Some recalled 30 to 40 students in their schools, but most remembered small groups of a dozen or so.

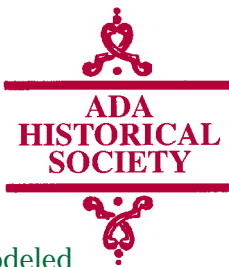
From Esther Hazlett, who went to Egypt Valley School, talked about an unpopular teacher. The kids cut the rope on the school bell. The teacher got a ladder from the neighbor just across the road and he went up in the belfry to fix the bell. The kids took the ladder down. "I thought they were going to leave him up there so I ran to the neighbor's to get help to get him down. That teacher didn't last the whole year.

Margaret Farrell Jakeway: "When I was five years old I went to kindergarten for two weeks in the spring time. Then in the fall I started the first grade. The school had all eight grades if there were enough kids but there were never more than ten kids that ever went to that school of all the different grades. I think the grade I was in had the most and there were three of us.

"We had a lot of fun. On the southeast corner of the school yard there was always a pond. Well, the least little bit of ice and we were on that pond. Well, we went over there and we were in the fourth grade and the ice wasn't thick enough to hold our weight and we all went in there and got our socks all wet and of course we all wore long underwear then and we got that all wet. We had to sit around the old stove in the schoolhouse to dry out.

"We would all take our sleds to school. We used to slide down the hill there. Then we used to get pails of water and slick it down, making it really icy to go faster."

Ken Anderson: "I went to school at Chase School through the eighth grade. There were 12 or maybe 14 in all eight grades. In the winter, there was a pond a short distance from the school and we always had an hour for



Neighborhood Watch Update

Attention Snowbirds

Are you heading south? If you would like to be on the "East Precinct" property watch please contact the Clerk's office or the at (616) 676-9191 ext:0. We will take your information and forward it to the Deputy Sheriff on duty. Please remember to have an emergency contact phone number to add to your information card.



Interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch?

It's simple, it's easy and it brings peace of mind to your family and neighbors! It's all about being a good neighbor, a responsible citizen and parent.

Neighboring is best defined as knowing your neighbors, their children and vehicles. This helps each member of the community define suspicious vehicles or persons in our neighborhood to help prevent and deter crime. If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program please contact the Kent County Sheriff Departments Community Service Department at (616) 632-6181

Please Remember to REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES and/or BEHAVIOR TO THE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT (616) 336-3113 or 632-6100 Crime prevention tips:

- 1) Don't forget to lock your home and car doors!
- 2) Leave an outside porch light on at night!
- 3) Know your neighbors!
- 4) Do Not Hesitate

Does Your House Hold Hazardous Waste?

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program was developed to provide county residents with a safe and effective means to dispose of their unwanted hazardous materials. How do you tell if something could be hazardous? Read the product labels. Words such as "Danger", "Poison", "Warning", or "Caution" will identify products that contain hazardous ingredients. When these products are discarded, they become household hazardous wastes. These products generally fall into five categories:

- Cleaning Products: Drain openers, oven cleaners, polishes, spot removers.
- Automotive Products: Gasoline and solvents, brake or transmission fluids, car batteries, polishes and waxes.
- Paint and Paint Products: Thinners, mineral spirits, oil base paints, stains and varnishes, aerosol cans, epoxies and adhesives.
- Pesticides: Weed killers, insecticides, fertilizers, wood preservatives, rat or insect poisons.
- Miscellaneous: Pool chemicals, driveway sealer, roofing tar, hobby or photo chemicals, mercury, batteries (Ni-Cad, lithium, alkaline, etc.).

Call (616) 336-2501 or 1-888-217-2850 to set an appointment most convenient for you, and for more information on Kent County's Solid Waste Recycling and HHW Programs. This program is free to the residents of Kent County, but we cannot accept materials from farms, businesses, offices, or institutions. There are resources available for these groups, but this program is for households only.

VINTAGE CARS, FLOATS, QUIZZICAL HUNT WINNERS-2003

PRIZE WINNING FLOATS

1ST PLACE
MARILYN'S
MALTS & MORE
MARILYN ROGERS
4574 76TH ST
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
49508

2ND PLACE
ADACROFT
COMMONS ASSN.
C/O JOHN WESTRA
6127 WINTROP CT. SE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
49546

3RD PLACE
KIDS ON THE RIDGE
C/O LISA HERMAN
6741 ADARIDGE DR. SE
ADA, MI 49301

PRIZE WINNING CARS

1ST PLACE
JIM JOHNSON-1957
CHEVY BELAIRE

2ND PLACE
DAVID MURRAY-1998
INDY PLACE
CORVETTE CAR

3RD PLACE
DAVID MURRAY-1978
INDY PACE CAR-
CORVETTE

QUIZZICAL HUNT WINNERS

TED WRIGHT

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 tags.

Have a Great Fall!

Treasurer Carolyn Soderberg...ext: 23
Deputy Barbara Leeext: 27
Admin. Support Dolores White ...ext: 22



Roselle Park Plans Taking Shape

With the completion of the recent public input "charette"(open house) process, future plans for the development of Roselle Park on Grand River Dr. are beginning to take shape. In case you were not able to attend the day-long open house held earlier in September, there is still time to offer your input on park facilities and activities to the Roselle Park Steering Committee.

Mailed comments should be directed to the Steering Committee, or you can E-Mail them to Steering Committee Co-Chairs George Haga (ghaga@ada.mi.us) or Deb Ensing Millhuff (millhuff@ada.mi.us).

Look for future updates and activities regarding Roselle Park at www.ada.mi.us

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

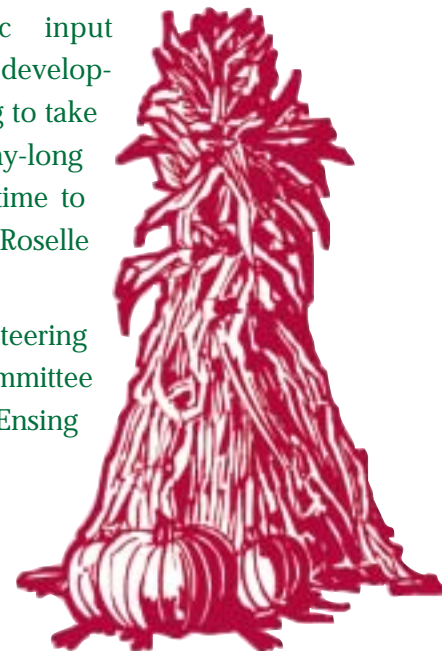
or

by accessing our web site at
www.ada.mi.us,

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



Meeting Dates

Ada Township Board Meeting
2nd & 4th Monday
7:30PM

Monday, October 13th
Monday, October 27th
November 10th
November 24th
December 8th

Planning Commission
3rd Thursday 7:30PM

Thursday, October 16th
Thursday, November 20th
Thursday, December 18th

Zoning Board of Appeals
1st Tuesday 4:30PM

Tuesday, October 7th
Tuesday, November 4th

If you would like to receive agendas and minutes via e-mail please contact :

Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff
millhuff@ada.mi.us
or call 676-9191 ext:21

Boynton School continued...

lunch. As soon as we got our lunch done we would grab our skates and away we would go down to skate on the pond. There were some hills not far away and when we didn't go skating we went sliding down the hills. We did have a lot of fun in those days.

"We walked about a mile to school. A wood stove heated the school. Every morning, we boys would have to bring the wood into the school for the teacher to build the fire."

Ruby Morris Gillespie: "My dad said we had to wear those four-buckle galoshes because we had to wade through snow up to our knees on the way to school. We cut cross-lots and on the way we took off the boots and put them behind a stump and went on to school. Coming home at night

we would put them back on."

Dianna Stampfler from the West Michigan Travel Association will present a slide show on covered bridges and one-room schools on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Averill Historical Museum of Ada. The program is free and



everyone is invited to attend.

ATTENTION VETERANS!

ARMED SERVICES VETERANS OF ADA TOWNSHIP

ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS STARTING A PROJECT TO PREPARE A LIST OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN RESIDING IN ADA TOWNSHIP WHOM HAVE SERVED IN ONE OF THE ARMED FORCES. IN ADDITION TO A LIST, THE SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE AS MANY "STORIES" ABOUT SERVICE TIME AS POSSIBLE. ANY ONE WHO RESIDED IN ADA TOWNSHIP AT THE TIME OF SERVICE, BUT HAVE SINCE MOVED IS ALSO INCLUDED.

INFORMATION DESIRED:

NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, ARMED FORCE SERVED (ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, ETC.) INCLUDE WHAT SHIP, ETC., DATE OF SERVICE, LOCATION (S) OF SERVICE, METALS OR SPECIAL SERVICE AWARDS RECEIVED, HIGHEST RANK, ENCOUNTER (WW II, VIETNAM, ETC.)

THE BASIC INFORMATION PROVIDED MAY BE AS LISTED ABOVE OR IF YOU HAVE INTERESTING "STORIES" ABOUT YOUR SERVICE, PROVIDE AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE. YOUR REPORT CAN BE MAILED TO:

ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 741

ADA, MI 49301

THE SOCIETY IS ALSO WILLING TO MEET WITH YOU TO MAKE A RECORDING OF YOUR EXPERIENCES. FOR THAT, CONTACT:

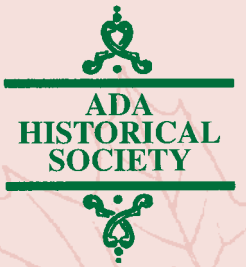
PETER PAPP

1629 BUTTRICK

ADA, MI 49301

(OR) CALL PHONE NUMBER 676-1137

IF YOU KNOW OF A FORMER RESIDENT WHO WAS IN THE ARM FORCES AND HAS SINCE MOVED AWAY, PLEASE SEND THEM THIS NOTICE. IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS NO LONGER LIVING, ASSIST US BY SENDING THE INFORMATION YOU ARE AWARE OF (PARTICULARLY IF THEY LOST THEIR LIFE IN THE SERVICE). THIS RECORD WOULD BE A VALUABLE PART OF ADA'S HISTORY.



The Ada Historical Society meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Averill Historical Museum of Ada. Everyone is invited to join

The Bailey Monster...

told by DLE Mills

As the story goes, through the fog and mist of the marshes in the northern section of Ada, Michigan it is not unlikely to hear a faint scream or moan... some say you will even hear what sounds like a long curdling cry of pain. Over the years various reports from residents, hunters and hikers have stated seeing a large manlike figure at least 6 foot rise from the swamps and bogs along Bailey and McCabe and disappear as quickly as it had appeared.

As the legend tells it sometime in the 19th Century a large burly man with dark eyes and dark hair owned a farm in the northern section of the township, he could be antagonistic at times and as it is told, he played as hard as he worked.

It was not unlike the Farmer to load up his wagon with his foreman and head south along the rocky road into "town" on a Saturday for what often became a very long night of poker and homemade beer in the modest, but well stocked bar of the Ada Hotel.

The legend states on the night of the full Harvest moon he and his Foreman got home around 3AM after a very long night of poker where the Farmer had lost more than he had in his pocket to the Foreman. When they arrived home the Foreman went to his sleeping quarters attached to the tack room off the main barn and the Farmer fell into his comfortable feather bed instantly falling asleep. The Farmer awoke in a startle by the sound of the front door being kicked in, and before the Farmer could get out of bed he was staring at the red face of his Foreman demanding the Farmer pay him his winnings from the poker game now!

The Farmer at first try to explain he would get the money first thing Monday morning when they took the crop to town. The Foreman was in no mood for excuses and continued demanding what was owed him. By this time the Farmer was angry and told the Foreman to leave his home and his property. The

To be read by candlelight

Foreman left... only to return within minutes with his shotgun and large hunting knife. The Farmer was never seen again, no body was ever found. Therefore, no charges against the Foreman (whom inherited all the property) were ever brought.

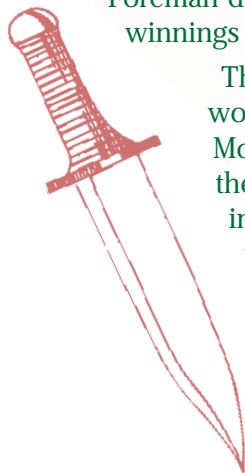
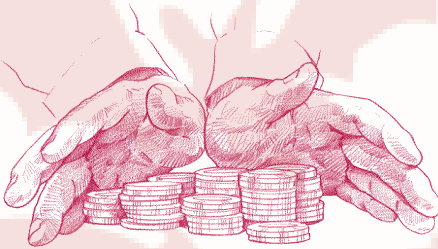
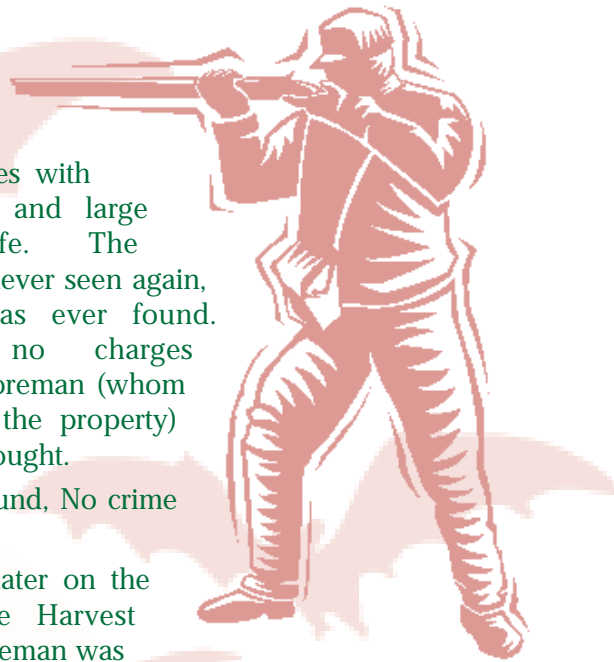
No body found, No crime committed?

Five years later on the night of the Harvest Moon the Foreman was found drowned... on the front porch of what had been the Farmers home prior to his disappearance. The home was 150 yards from the marshes and still the Foreman laid dead with water and debris from the marsh still in his mouth.

This too was strange because everyone knew that ever since the Farmer had disappeared the Foreman refused to approach the marshes during the day much less in the middle of the night.

The Foreman had lost all his money and sold all the livestock that he inherited upon the Farmers disappearance to pay his own poker debts...he was buried in an unmarked paupers grave with no one but the undertaker and his assistant to lay him to rest. However, as the locals tell it, to this day on the night of the full Harvest Moon the Bailey Monster rises from the swampy water only to disappear without a trace.

So now even in death the Farmer's debt is still not paid?



A Note from the Clerk

We have been busy with our plans for Roselle Park and certainly hope you had an opportunity to share your ideas at the open house September 9th. If you were unable to attend please write down your thoughts and/or ideas and send them to us or access the web site at www.ada.mi.us and go to our request/comments and I will receive them via e-mail.

Open Burning

Open burning will be allowed in the restricted area (south of Fulton) effective November 1st. You may pick up your permit (at no cost) Monday- Friday 8AM-5PM (excluding holidays) at the Clerk's office. Permits are issued for Monday-Thursday or Friday-Sunday and sorry we can only issue one permit at a time.

Recreational fires are allowed but please double check with the Fire Chief Jim Duvall at (616) 676-2376 to insure there are no DEQ/ State restrictions in place.

Yard Waste Pick-up

There will be yard waste pick-up for the restricted burn area on the following days:

Tuesday October 14th, 2003

Tuesday November 11th, 2003

Tuesday November 25th, 2003

Yard waste bags need to be purchased at the Township Hall at a cost of 50 cents per bag or free to those residents over 60 years of age.

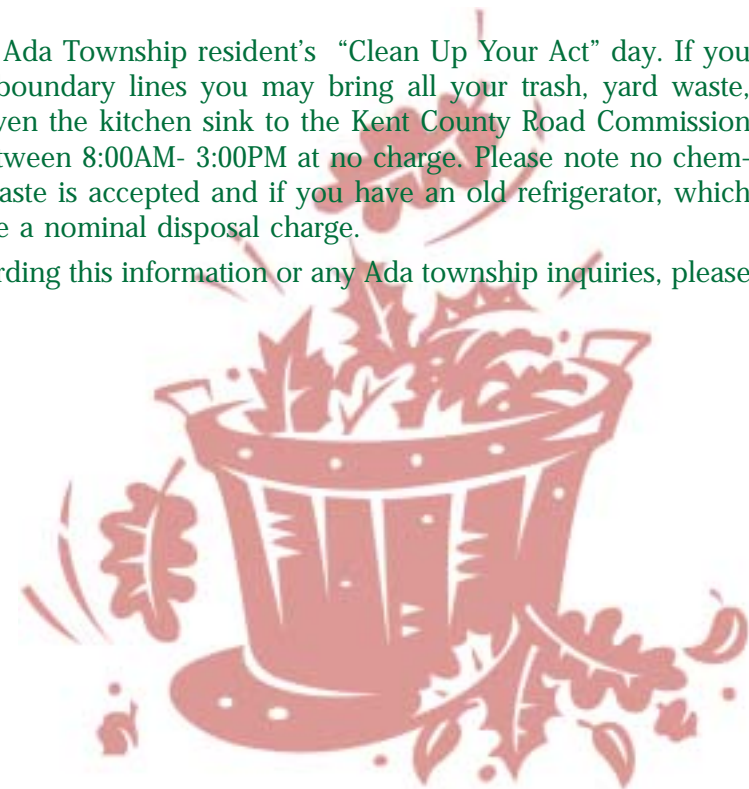
Clean-Up Day

Saturday October 25th will be Ada Township resident's "Clean Up Your Act" day. If you live within the Ada Township boundary lines you may bring all your trash, yard waste, stoves, old lawn mowers and even the kitchen sink to the Kent County Road Commission site at the end of Fase Street between 8:00AM- 3:00PM at no charge. Please note no chemicals or household hazardous waste is accepted and if you have an old refrigerator, which still contains Freon there may be a nominal disposal charge.

If you have any questions regarding this information or any Ada township inquiries, please contact me.

Deb Ensing Millhuff, CMC
millhuff@ada.mi.us
 (616) 676-9191 ext: 21

Deputy Deb ...ext: 20
 Receptionist Jeannie ...ext: 29
 Accounting Jean... ext: 28



ADA TOWNSHIP RECOGNIZED HOLIDAYS DATES FOR OFFICE CLOSING:

November 10
 Veterans Day

November 27
 Thanksgiving Day

November 28
 Day After
 Thanksgiving

December 24
 Christmas Eve

December 25
 Christmas Day

December 26
 Office Closed

December 31
 New Years Eve

2004

January 01
 New Years

January 19
 Martin Luther King
 Jr. Day

February 16
 Presidents Day