

Publication Notes . . .

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Telephone: 616-676-9191
www.ada.mi.us
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Ada Township Board
Supervisor
George Haga
P.O. Box 370
Ada, 49301
Ext. 50
ghaga@ada.mi.us

Clerk
Deb Ensing Millhuff, CMC
P.O. Box 370, Ada, 49301
Ext. 21
millhuff@ada.mi.us

Treasurer
Carolyn Soderberg
P.O. Box 370, Ada, 49301
Ext. 23
lynn@ada.mi.us

Trustee
Diana Fase Pratt
1191 Buttrick
676-3389

Trustee
Norman B. Rhoades
571 Rookway SE
GR, 49546
676-2423

Trustee
Phil Vogelsang
554 Round Tree Lane
Ada, 49301
676-8054

Trustee
William Wood
8060 Vergennes
Ada, 49301
676-1776

Editor:
Deb Ensing Millhuff

Co-Editor:
Vicki Hill, Emeritus

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August 3: Kent District Library Millage Election

Kent District Library is comprised of 18 branches and a Service Center, serving 26 municipalities in Kent County.

On August 3, Kent District Library will be asking for a total of 1.0 mill for ten years, in two questions (0.88 and 0.12). If both questions pass, KDL will be able to maintain enhanced library programs and services that meet the needs of your growing community.

If only the 0.88 rate (Question 1) passes, all KDL branches will stay open. However, it is projected that Kent District Library will have to cut operations. For example, the book budget, open hours, and support services for local library building projects would be reduced.

If a millage initiative does not pass in 2004, KDL could not continue services, and would close all 18 branches.

How much will the millage cost?

In 2000, taxpayers approved a 0.88 millage rate for four years.

At 0.88 mill, the owner of a \$100,000 home will pay \$44 a year, or about 12.5 cents a day.

At 1.0 mill that same homeowner would pay \$50 a year, or about 14 cents a day.

Your 1.0 mill funds will ensure ongoing, enhanced library service:

- All library materials will be free, including videos, DVDs, and music CDs.
- More bestsellers will be purchased, so waiting lists are shorter.

- The book and materials budget will be increased by 50%, over the life of the millage.
- KDL will increase "Self Checkout" to deliver fast, convenient service.
- KDL will support local library building projects with staff, materials, and computers.
- KDL will continue to offer early literacy programs, such as laptime and storytime, for children 0-5.
- KDL will increase programs and services, such as computer classes, geared to older adults.
- KDL will continue to fund the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
- KDL will provide new technology, such as more PCs and high-speed Internet access that effectively delivers library service.

This millage will not be used for buildings.

Kent District Library provides the books and materials, staff, and computers to operate the branch libraries. This millage request is for general library operations. Local communities provide the buildings that house branches.

Questions?

E-mai; millageinfo@kdl.org, or call (616) 784-2007, extension 2240.

ARTS COUNCIL PLANS PHOTO CONTEST & EXHIBIT

The Ada Arts Council is once again sponsoring a Photography Contest and Exhibit, with the exhibit opening planned for Thursday, September 9, at the Forest Hills Community Fine Arts Center. This year's contest will highlight the three themes of "People," "Land & Water" and "Patriotism." A maximum of 3 photo entries per person may be submitted, in any combination of the three subject matter categories.

Entries must be submitted no later than August 27. Detailed contest rules and entry forms are available at local art galleries, gift and photography shops, or on the Township's web site, at www.ada.mi.us.

THE ADAVIEW

Honesty will always win over pettiness; however, pettiness may not recognize the win.

Inside this Issue:

Grand Marshal

Historical Society

Park Happenings

A Note from the Supervisor, Clerk & Treasurer!

Neighborhood Watch

Ada Happenings

Election 2004 Information (see page 5)

And much, much more!

Quizzical
Hunt Insert!

VOTE! VOTE! Tuesday 8/3/04

For Information on Voting in Ada Please Contact Your Township Clerk Deb E Millhuff millhuff@ada.mi.us or 616-676-9191 ext: 21

Celebrate Our Independence!

Ada Township will celebrate Independence Day on Saturday July 3rd, 2004.

Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration!
Fireworks at dusk on Saturday, July 3rd, 2004
Forest Hills Central HS
Saturday July 3rd, 2004 Schedule

- 7-9:30 AM Firemen's Pancake Breakfast
- 8:00AM Thornapple Lion's Annual Flea Market
- 9:30 AM Parade Line-up
- 10:00 AM PARADE BEGINS
- 10:30 AM—2:30PM New Games, New Rides, Virtual Pictures, Arts and Crafts, Live Music, Family Fun Tent and much, much more!
- Noon-12:30PM Classic Car Show Award

All Parade Floats are judged for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Best of Show!

NEW RIDES! NEW ART! LIVE MUSIC! FUN FOR FAMILY!

"In the Image" will have a donation truck available for gently used clothing, furniture and small appliances for families in need.

FIREWORKS SATURDAY JULY 3rd
Parade 10am — line-up 9:30am
Celebration on the Green • Free Virtual Pictures
Free Rides and Games • Music • Food

GRAND MARSHAL

Grand Marshals, Don and Nina Harrington were married in 1949 and have been active advocates of our community for many years. Generously volunteering their time, ideas and expertise to historical preservation of Ada Township, as well as, the protection of residents' rights, local politics, Freedom of Speech, and an overall love of our community. The impact on Ada Township over the years because of their concern and advocacy has been well documented in township minutes and in numerous board members representatives throughout the years. From a his-

torical museum, to Local Township officials Don and Nina have worked hard to help preserve our quality of life.

Don Harrington retired from the Kent County Sheriff's Department, where during his tenure (and commitment and dedication to the law enforcement motto "Protect & Serve") Don was named The Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of West Michigan. Don also was one of the first residents

Continued on pg. 2

Grand Marshall Cont.

(20 plus years ago) to present the Township Board with the importance of a Historical Museum to share and preserve the history of Kent County's first settlement; Ada Township.

Nina Harrington's tie to our community heritage goes back many generations, when the fertile fields of Ada were worked from dawn to dusk and the Covered Bridge was the only road west to Grand Rapids. To this day Nina takes an active role in historic preservation and serves as Curator at the local museum. If there is an historic question either Nina has the answer or can steer you to it, Nina is our township historian.

Don and Nina Harrington have generously given their hearts and time to our community without asking or wanting recognition. So please wave and say "Thank You!" as Don and Nina ride by.

YOUR CLAIM YOUR FAME!

The Community Media Center celebrates its 21st anniversary & 10th year of filming the Ada Township Independence Day Parade, which will be filmed and aired on GRTV channel 25, which is a department of the Community Media Center, located at 711 Bridge St SW.

Stop by the Ada Township Hall (Bronson Street) during the parade or by the Mobil Media Truck on the green to claim a few of your 15 minutes of fame.

If you are interested in being a part of the Lights, Camera and Action next year contact the Media Center at 459-4788 to find out how.

ROOTS OF OUR INDEPENDENCE

Deb EM

In 1773, Britain's East India Company was warehousing a large stock of tea which they were unable to sell in England. The company was on the verge of bankruptcy and in an effort to save the company; the British government passed the Tea Act of 1773. Allowing the company the right to export the merchandise to the American Colonies without paying any of the taxes that were imposed on all other colonial merchants, whom had previously served as the "middlemen". With the Tea Act of 1773 in place the company could undersell American merchants and monopolize the colonial tea trade.

The act is what provoked the Colonists into the reality of what had previously been discussed and ignored. Independence. The Act angered influential colonial merchants, who feared being bankrupted by a monopoly and the fear and anger was amplified by The East India Company's decision to grant franchises to certain American merchants creating more resentment among those excluded. Most important, however, the Tea Act of 1773 revived Americans passion about the issue of taxation without representation.

Since the law provided no new tax on tea, Lord North mistakenly assumed that most colonists would welcome the new law because it would reduce the price of tea to consumers by removing the middleman. However, the colonists responded by boycotting tea.

Unlike earlier protests, this boycott mobilized large segments of the population. Particularly important to the movement were the activities of colonial women, who were one of the principal consumers of tea and now became the leaders of the effort to the

boycott. It also linked the colonies together in a common experience of a popular protest.

The various colonies planned to prevent the East India Company from landing its cargoes in colonial ports. In ports (other than Boston), agents of the company were "persuaded" to resign, and new shipments of tea were either returned to England or warehoused. In Boston, the agents refused to resign and, with the support of the royal governor, preparations were made to land incoming cargo regardless of opposition.

After failing to turn back three ships in the harbor, local patriots led by Samuel Adams staged a spectacular drama. On the evening of December 16, 1773, three companies of fifty men each, masquerading as Mohawk Indians, passed through a tremendous crowd of spectators, went aboard the three ships, broke open the tea chests, and heaved them into the harbor. As the electrifying news of the "Boston Tea Party" spread, other seaports followed the example and staged similar acts of resistance of their own and beginning our fight for independence from England!

Happy Independence Day!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

With summer comes more opportunity for thief and vandalism

Remember:

- 1) **Keep your windows and doors locked!**
- 2) **Remove all personal items from your car and lock the doors!**

**Report all suspicious behavior or vehicles!
Contact the Sheriff Department
at
632-6357**



CLICK IT OR TICKET

"Click it or Ticket" is not new for our area but we again want to inform all drivers that we are enforcing seatbelt violations. This year the grant requires that we have enforcement locations in every city, village and township throughout Kent County. This means that you will see multiple agencies all working together at one of these locations.

Participating agencies are Cedar Springs PD, Grand Rapids PD,

Grandville PD, Kentwood PD, Kent County Sheriff Department, Lowell PD, Michigan State Police, Rockford City PD, Sparta PD, Walker PD and Wyoming PD.

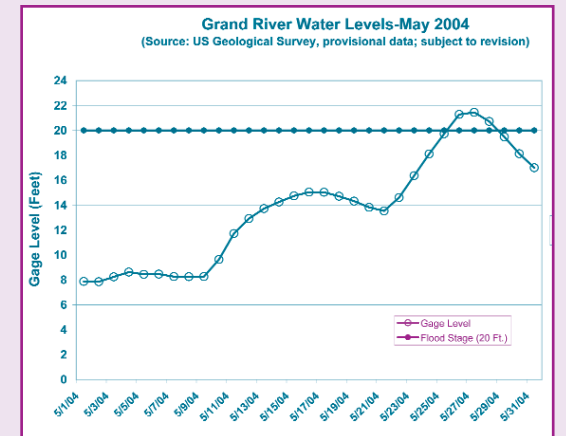
The simple message that we want to get out is that seatbelt use saves lives. Having saturated patrols throughout the county will help get that message out.

RESPECT FOR THE RIVER

The recent flooding on the Grand and Thornapple Rivers in Ada Township and elsewhere should provide us all with a renewed respect for the river and its floodplain. The need to avoid placing fill, our homes and other valuable property in the floodplain is underscored by the fact that things could have been much worse. A photograph of the 1904 flood displayed in the Township Hall, for example, shows not just a short stretch of Ada Drive under water, but also the entire road from the location of Woody's Market extending north to M-21 and the Grand River. The water level at that time crested about 3 feet higher than in this year's flood. In the pre-Memorial Day flood this year, the river's level rose 8 feet in 5 days, to a level about 1 1/2 feet above flood stage. It was the highest flood height seen in the area since 1986.

Placement of fill and buildings in the floodplain not only exposes the buildings themselves to flood damage, it also reduces the flood-carrying capacity of the stream and increases the severity of flooding when it occurs. Ada Township has floodplain regulations that are intended to reduce the risk of property damage and public safety hazard from flooding, by restricting placement of fill in the floodplain, and requiring that homes and other structures placed in the floodplain be elevated above projected flood heights.

By having floodplain regulations in place, the Township also makes its residents eligible to obtain federally sponsored floodplain insurance. This protects the owners of property located in the floodplain against flood losses, which are not covered by typical homeowners insurance policies.



A Note from the Treasurer

Deferment of 2004 Summer Taxes

To defer your 2004 summer tax payment from 9/14/04 to 2/14/05 you must have an application on file at the Treasurer's office by September 15, 2004. Those eligible for deferment are households with income not exceeding \$25,000 for the preceding calendar year and one of the following:

- Senior citizen – 62 years or older
- Paraplegic, quadriplegic
- Eligible service persons, eligible veteran or eligible widow/widower
- Blind person
- Totally and permanently disabled

Applications can be picked up at the Treasurer's office at the township hall, Monday thru Friday 8AM to 5PM, or call 676-9191 EX 22, 23, or 27 to have one mailed or faxed to you.

Don't Count On Your Check To Float After October 28!

Effective October 28, 2004 the checks you write for purchases/bills will be moving through the banking system the same day. Those of you, who like to think of your money floating out there for a few days, are going to have to change the way

you think. On October 28, 2004 the Check 21 Act goes into effect. This bill was passed by both the House and Senate unanimously and signed by the President October 2003. The one important thing you need to know is that you must be sure your money is in your account the day you write your check. No more float.

This Act is bringing the banking industry into the 21st century by being faster and more efficient. You will be hearing more about the Check 21 Act in the coming months from your bank and lending institutions and how it works. So start practicing now in changing your mind set, so you won't be caught off guard when October rolls around.

NSF Charges To Be Collected by the Treasurer

The Ada Township Treasurer initiated and recommends that beginning July 1, 2004 a \$25 fee on all NSF checks. At this time, we feel this will be sufficient to cover the cost of addition reports and extra work generated to handle NSF checks.

(not yet approved by board at printing)

**If you have any questions please contact:
Treasurer Carolyn Soderberg ext: 23**

Identity Theft

Amused by those TV commercials about identity theft? Get bombarded with mail urging you to buy identity theft protection? Think it will never happen to you? Well think again. If you know anyone whose identity has been stolen, be prepared to sit and listen as they tell you all the problems that they have incurred and how many hours, days, months and years it has taken to clean up the theft.

Some very simple things you can do to save yourself from identity theft.

1. Don't put outgoing mail in your mailbox. Are you one of those people who like to put your outgoing mail in your mailbox and flip the little red flag? Well that little red flag is an invitation to anyone who wants to steal your identity. If this outgoing mail contains bill payments and credit card numbers, you are a prime candidate. Your bills are removed, check numbers copied and before you know it someone is ordering checks with your account numbers.
2. Check your bank statements over as soon as you receive them. The earlier you are aware of checks appearing on your statement that you did not write, the faster you can get protection from your bank.
3. Buy a shredder or make sure you rip through names, addresses, account numbers when

throwing away junk mail that contain credit card offers, financial information, etc. It is so easy for someone to open and fill in a credit card offer you have thrown away.

4. Check your credit reports regularly and guard your personal information.

The following are numbers you can call or email if you suspect identity theft:

- 1-800-269-0271 SS Fraud Line
- 1-800-525-6285 Equifax – www.equifax.com
- 1-888-397-3742 Experian (TRW) www.experian.com
- 1-800-680-7289 TransUnion – www.tuc.com

Call your bank ASAP if you know of any checks/charges against your account. Check your credit periodically and make sure there are no unsuspecting claims against your account. If there are, don't waste any time in getting it resolved.

Carolyn Soderberg

Meeting Dates

Township Board
2nd and 4th Monday
7:30pm
July ...12
July ...26
August...9
August...23
September...13
September...27

Planning
Commission
3rd Thursday every
month
7:30pm
July 15
August 19
September 16

Zoning Board of
Appeals
1st Tuesday every
month
4:30pm
July 6
August 3
September 7

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

News from Ada Park

Summer programs begin June 22

Due to several delays, the summer program flyer did not get distributed through the schools this year. Programs are available at the Ada Township Hall and the Park Office located at Ada Park. If you are unable to get to these locations during business hours, contact Wendy at 676-0520 to have a program mailed to you. The first program will be held on Tuesday, June 22nd. Children must be registered to participate in the craft and nature programs. Registration will be done one week at a time, meaning you register beginning Monday mornings for programs held that week. You can register over the phone by calling 676-0520.

Trail to Grand River finished

Those of you that have discovered the trail that runs along the Grand River from the Ada Moorings subdivision to the Forest Hills Public School's Crew Facility know that the beginning of the trail was not blacktopped. This made access to the trail impossible at times. With the construction of new homes in that area now complete, the trail blacktopping was finished just in time for the floodwaters to cover the trail. As of this writing the water still covers the trail.

If you've never been on the trail, you can get some spectacular views of the Grand River. Now that the mosquitoes have hatched you will want to cover yourself in bug repellent if you plan on walking the trail. Remember the old TV commercial for Off where the man sticks his arm into the tank of mosquitoes? That is approximately how thick the mosquitoes are there. They aren't as bad on the blacktopped portion of the trail but if you head north on the natural trail they almost carry you away.

A "discovery hike" of this property will be held on July 22nd. Park Director Wendy Tatar will lead the hike, which will begin at 9 AM from the Ada Park parking lot located on Grand River Drive. Hope to see you there.

Park Rules

Now that summer is here it seems like a good time to review the rules that apply to the Ada Township Parks (Ada Park, Leonard Field/Covered Bridge, Roselle Park and the trail along the Grand River). These rules were established to protect you, the public, and the wildlife and facilities of the parks.

1. Parks close at dark. All park users must leave at closing time unless a written permit for later hours has been issued.
2. Activities not allowed within the park limits:
 - Consumption or possession of alcohol
 - Indecent conduct

- Hunting, trapping or molesting of wildlife
- Carrying of firearms or weapons (this includes paintball guns), or discharge of firearms, fireworks or explosive devices/substances
- Amplified music*
- Dumping of trash or yard waste
- Noisy, boisterous or disorderly conduct
- Posting of signs
- Pitching of tents*
- Gambling
- Sale of merchandise, mechanical or other concessions*
- Operation of recreational vehicles
- Riding of horses or other animals
- Parking vehicles overnight*
**Except by permit*

3. Dogs must be leashed and cleaned up after. Dogs are not allowed on the softball fields at any time.

4. Fires are to be built in grills only.

5. All papers, garbage and other picnic refuse must be placed in receptacles provided.

6. Persons destructive of trees, buildings, equipment, signs, flowers, lawns, etc. will be held liable for damages and prosecuted.

Ada Park Fishing Ponds Update

You may have read in past Adaviews that large pike inhabited the ponds at Ada Park. Recently two of these large fish were caught, leaving only one (we hope) large pike in the ponds. On opening day of pike season Jim McMasters and friends caught a 32" and a 34" northern pike. The one that remains is approximately 27-inches. There are also many smaller pike in the ponds. We are asking that if you catch any of the pike that you not throw them back in. If you catch any pike larger than 12", please let Wendy know by coming to the park office or calling 676-0520.

ADVISORY BOARD FOR OPEN SPACE APPOINTED

Efforts to preserve open space lands in Ada Township are in high gear, now that a formal Advisory Board has been appointed to oversee land preservation efforts and advise the Township Board regarding lands selected for acquisition.

The nine Advisory Board members include most of those who served on the original Task Force that developed the Township's Open Space Preservation Plan, plus two Township Board members and a member of the Township's Parks Committee. Members include Betty Jo Crosby, Greg Forbes, Jamie Ladd, Matt Nygren, Bette Roberts, Elise Roe, Randy Van Dragt, Norm Rhoades, Township Trustee and George Haga, Township Supervisor.

The Advisory Board will review applications from property owners or nominations from the public for properties to be considered for acquisition and permanent preservation as open land. Approximately \$150,000 per year for land preservation will be generated for the next 13 years by the voter-approved "parks and land preservation" millage. Recommendations on sites to acquire will be made to the Township Board.



The Advisory Board will also evaluate offers from property owners to donate lands or conservation easements on land to the Township for open space preservation, and will seek out available grant funds from state, federal and private sources, to supplement the Township's millage funds.

Forms for offering or nominating property for consideration to be acquired, as well as rules and procedures for the open space preservation program, can be obtained from the Township Planning Dept., at 676-9191, Ext. 31, or from the Township's web site, at www.ada.mi.us.

Ada Township is one of a handful of communities across the state with formal programs and a dedicated funding source for acquisition and permanent preservation of important open space lands. The Township has already acquired two sites with funds under the program, including a flood-prone residence on the Grand River and 20 wooded acres at the confluence of the Grand and Thornapple rivers.

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.

A NOTE FROM THE CLERK

The Clerk's office has been receiving numerous inquiries regarding local township office candidates for the Tuesday, August 3, 2004 Primary Election.

Please note the candidates for each office are listed below alphabetically.

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

Ada Township Board Candidates for the August 3, 2004 Primary Election!

SUPERVISOR: 1 to be elected

PARTY	CANDIDATE NAME
R	George Haga (I) *

CLERK: 1 to be elected

PARTY	CANDIDATE NAME
R	Deborah Ensing Millhuff (I)*

TREASURER: 1 to be elected

PARTY	CANDIDATE NAME
R	Diane Fase Pratt**
R	Carolyn Soderberg (I)*

TRUSTEES: 4 to be elected

PARTY	CANDIDATE NAME
R	Phillip Carino
R	Randy Damstra
R	Renee Davis
R	Frank Hoover
R	Robert H Lowry
R	Matt Nygren**
R	Bob Proos
R	Norman Rhoades (I)*
R	Mischelle D Sytsma
R	John Westra

(I) *Current incumbent (II) **Diane Fase Pratt currently a Township Trustee (III) **Matt Nygren was previously Township Trustee (IV) Please note the Primary election is a straight party vote only.

Election Questions??
Please contact Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff
millhuff@ada.mi.us or (616) 676-9191 ext: 21 or 20 M-F
8AM-5PM

ROSELLE PARK UPDATE

Steps toward the development of Roselle Park on the former Ada Beef property have been ongoing this past spring:

- In May, asbestos removal work at the former beef processing plant was completed, by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor. This was a necessary step prior to building demolition.
- Plans and specifications for building demolition are being prepared, and should be out for bid in early-to-mid summer.
- If the bids are favorable, demolition work on the existing buildings may be completed this summer and fall.
- If the water levels in the recently-flooded waste treatment lagoons recede sufficiently, the lagoons will be emptied and filled.
- Wildlife inventory work has been ongoing on the property, by Calvin College students and faculty, coordinated by Township resident and Calvin College faculty member Dr. Randy Van Dragt.

West Nile Virus: Reduce Your Risk

With summer rapidly approaching, the Kent County Health Department is reminding people that they can lower their risk of West Nile Virus by taking simple precautions. Although there were no cases of WNV reported in Kent County in 2003 (there were 57 in 2002), health department officials say it is impossible to predict what this summer might bring.

Because West Nile Virus is spread by mosquitoes, the best way to reduce your risk of WNV is to reduce your exposure to mosquitoes. The Health Department recommends using insect repellent that contains DEET on exposed skin when outdoors. Bug sprays, lotions or gels that contain 10%-35% DEET are effective for adults while repellents for children should contain 10% or less DEET. Always be sure to follow directions on the product label when using insect repellents.

The Health Department also recommends reducing mosquito habitats in and around your house by eliminating standing water in your yard. Old tires, pails, uncovered garbage cans, birdbaths, flowerpots, and children's toys can all collect water. Checking your yard and dumping standing water helps reduce places for mosquitoes to breed (mosquitoes lay their eggs in water). Keeping your lawn and shrubs trimmed also helps reduce places for mosquitoes to 'hide' during the day.

Birds usually become infected before people, and dead birds are usually a sign that WNV season has started. You should report any dead birds that you find to the Health Department by calling (616) 336-3030.

You can also report dead birds, and find additional information about West Nile Virus, on the Kent County Health Department web site: www.accesskent.com/westnile.