THE ADAVIEW

A newsletter published by Ada Township

SUMMER 2025





Volume 41 / Issue 2 / Summer 2025

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Tom Korth
Supervisor

Beginning about the year 2000, we have actively, thoughtfully, and diligently worked as a community in the art of place-making with the goal of both preserving a uniquely amiable place while preparing it for our ever-more sophisticated and populated environs. The strong evidence of the success of the investment in the village area to Ada as a whole is seen by its comfortable liveliness, continued growth in residents, and property values.

As part of our ongoing journey, the Township recently purchased the land directly across Headley Street from our Amy Van Andel Library/Community Center with the goal of building a modern Township Hall to support our needs through the balance of the twenty-first century, to provide a cohesive civic center, and to allow for an easy connection to the inviting community spaces within the Library.

With the foreseeable end to a lot of new commercial construction in the village we have an opportunity to reflect on how our constructed village achieved what was drafted in our 2013 Envision Ada plan. Additionally, the planning for the new Hall, along with what to do with the site of the current Township Hall, a handful of other sites in the village; and a desire find ways to allow for more residents raises the question how can we continue to use our successful planning concepts to ensure the remaining opportunities are conceived effectively for further enhancement of our quality of life?

To this end, during 2025 we are actively working on developing an updated planning exercise, a bookend charrette if you will, to allow the Ada community to envision further refinements. As the course of action unfolds, we will work to share updates and opportunities to participate with all of you.

Have a great summer!

"Evidence of the success of the investment in the village area to Ada as a whole is seen by its comfortable liveliness, continued growth in residents, and property values."

TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

Township Hall Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Supervisor
Thomas Korth, tkorth@adatownshipmi.com

Clerk
Jo DeMarco, jdemarco@adatownshipmi.com
Deputy: emcintosh@adatownshipmi.com

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Fire Department
David Murray, dmurray@adatownshipmi.com

Parks and Recreation
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Buildings, Facilities and Grounds
Dennis Brinks, dbrinks@adatownshipmi.com

Ada Farmer's Market
farmersmarket@adatownshipmi.com

Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency 616-632-6357
Community Policing Officers
Omar Dieppa- 616-632-6435
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK



Kevin Moran
Treasurer

Happy Trails!

In our Ada View Spring edition, we focused on the cost of public safety in Ada Township. Similar to our public safety millage in terms of importance to the residents of Ada Township, you graciously voted to levy a millage beginning in 2021 to provide funds for the repair, maintenance, operation, replacement, expansion, construction, signage, and financing of our paved non-motorized trails.

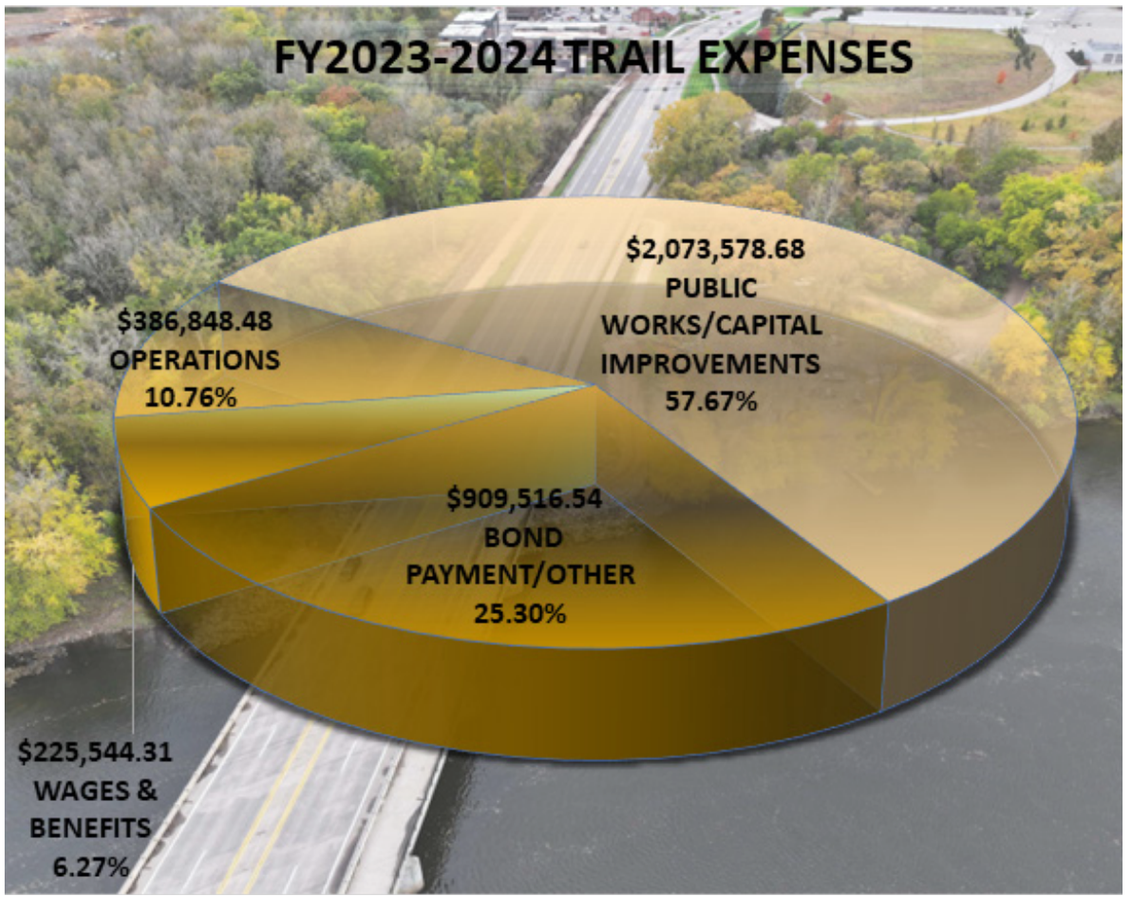
With the passage of that millage, Ada Township raised $15,655,000.00 in capital by issuing bonds over 40 years at a somewhat impressive net interest rate of 1.92127% in order to expedite the expansion of our trail system. In FY 2023-2024, we utilized some of that capital to connect the trail system from Legacy Park to Pettis Ave via Fulton Street.

Most of that trail extends from the East Village apartments along the south side of Fulton Street, proceeds underneath the Fulton Street bridge that extends over the Grand River, and continues east over the bridge on the north side of Fulton Street towards the Pettis Avenue trail which was constructed in FY 2022-2023. The final connection from Chief Hazy Cloud to Vergennes is budgeted for this year.

Operationally, we budget approximately $500,000 annually to maintain and repair all the trails in Ada Township. In FY 2023-2024 we incurred an actual expense of $346,513.25, which accounted for 90% of all operational expenses that year. Future maintenance projects include the repaving of the trail along Grand River.

I know we are all quite proud of the trail system that has come to exist in Ada Township, and with the partnership with Kent County, I look forward to the many exciting new projects still to come. With new projects comes some minor disruption, but don't let that prevent you from experiencing our trails, perhaps this very section, this summer!

If you would like to comment on this article, or anything Treasury related, you can reach out to me at 616-676-9191 ext. 7323 or via email at kmoran@adatownshipmi.com. My Deputy Treasurer, Gina Olszewski can be reached at 616-676-9191 ext. 7327 or via email at golszewski@adatownshipmi.com



CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATES



Jo DeMarco
Clerk

As I am writing the news for this edition, Deputy Erin McIntosh and I are working diligently to prepare and execute all election requirements for the May 6, 2025 Forest Hills Public School election. Regardless of an election being federal, state or local, the preparation obligations remain the same. We are fortunate to have so many ready, willing and able certified election inspectors to call upon to work our elections. Over the years I've worked as an election inspector and Chair for in person, absentee and early voting and I now have the pleasure of sharing election experiences with the fantastic Ada inspectors, assembled by Deputy McIntosh. We operate as a cohesive team and want our residents to know the care and attention we take in making sure that our elections run efficiently and effectively, with accuracy being at the forefront of our operations. We continue to update and elevate our trainings to accommodate election procedural changes, and strive to make Ada the place where all inspectors want to spend election day! Keep that in mind for 2026 and reach out if you're interested in election work.

Cemetery Improvements



As we welcome spring, we are excited to also welcome two new columbarium units at Ada Cemetery. The foundation and groundwork will begin by the end of May and we expect the new units to arrive by the end of summer. They will be placed in the north portion of the Northwest Section of the cemetery. We are pleased to offer placement to Ada residents and hope you will stop by the office for more information.

In addition to adding the new columbarium units, we have also been actively engaged in developing efforts for cemetery ground maintenance and upkeep throughout the winter. We've had several storms to contend with and I want the community to know that our outstanding Buildings, Facilities and Grounds team led by Dennis Brinks, have been champions for proactively undertaking the safeguarding, upkeep and preservation of both Ada and Findlay cemeteries. I thank them for all that they do, with the heart and soul they put into their efforts in servicing our cemetery needs. We enhance our maintenance during the spring and summer months, as cemetery traffic increases. We strive to make visitation pleasant and continually work on increased efforts. By the time you read this, our Veteran Flags will have been placed and look forward to sharing that event with you in our next Adaview edition.



Township Fees Update

Ada Township fees have been reviewed, revised and approved by our Township Board. These fees include Notary Services, Board Meeting information and copies, Solicitation Permits, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Assessor's Office information and Planning & Zoning information. All fees and relative descriptions will be noted on our updated website (coming soon!) but in the meantime, please take note of these increases.

Meet Dan Hurwitz: Ada Township's Retail Veteran Turned Township Trustee



Dan Hurwitz isn't your average township trustee, unless your average trustee has a history of running a swanky clothing store, a passion for community development, and a flair for civic involvement. Long before stepping into the world of zoning maps and budget meetings, Dan was rocking mannequins and cash registers as president of Rogers Department Store, the local department store his grandparents, Hy & Greta Berkowitz, launched back in 1955. Think fashion-forward meets hometown charm. In the early 2000s, Dan opened Daniel's in the upscale Terrazzo center—because nothing says community leadership like knowing how to pair a sport coat with the right pocket square.

These days, Dan's style is more boardroom than showroom. As Associate Vice President for University Development at Grand Valley State University, he's helping shape the future of education by raising serious funds and building relationships that count. (Word has it, he can land a major gift and give directions to the best Ada eateries, all in one breath.)

First appointed as an Ada Township trustee in 2015 and re-elected three times since, Dan sits on the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board as well as the Cemetery Committee. He brings both head and heart to township government, listening to residents, asking the right questions, and still finding time to laugh at the occasional absurdity of local politics.

Outside of work and government, Dan is a family, community, and golf guy through and through. He has lived in Ada for 27 years with his wife and grade school sweetheart Stephanie, raising two children, Sammi and Nate, who both attended Forest Hills Public Schools. Dan has served on multiple boards including the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation, West Michigan Miracle League, Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation and many others, and is the kind of person who can probably find a common connection with just about anyone.

Whether he's championing the township, fundraising for students, or reminiscing about department store days, Dan Hurwitz brings wit, wisdom, and just the right amount of fun to everything he does. Ada Township has never been in more stylish and capable hands.

COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES



The Township is excited to offer a variety of opportunities for the community to gather and enjoy live music in Legacy Park (7430 River St. SE, Ada, MI 49301) throughout the summer. This year's concert series will once again feature several live shows for *Music on the Lawn*, hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department in partnership with the Ada Historical Society, and *Beers at the Bridge*, presented by the DDA, as well as our annual 4th of July Celebration concert. From cold drinks to relaxing lawn vibes, there's something for everyone to enjoy under the summer skies!

- **June 4th - Prior Noon** (Country)
- **June 11th - Kelly Quinn Experience** (Blues)
- **June 20th - Kari Lynch** (Country)
- **June 25th - Yacht Rocket** (Yacht Rock)
- **July 4th - Hark Up** (Americana Celebration)
- **July 9th - Bare Naked Vinyl** (Classic Rock)
- **July 23rd - Nathan Walton & The Remedy** (Soulful Rock)
- **July 30th - The Frog King** (Neil Diamond Tribute)
- **August 6th - Space Bar** (Jazz)
- **August 15th - The Soul Syndicate** (R&B, Funk)

= Music on the Lawn Event | Wed. Evenings | 7p-9p

= Beers at the Bridge Event | Friday Evenings | 6p-9p

= 4th of July Celebration | 6:30p-9:30p

PARK PULSE

We're excited to share that planning, engineering, and design efforts for Covered Bridge Park have been progressing smoothly—and construction is officially scheduled to begin no later than August 2025. This transformational project will bring new energy and purpose to a cherished space in the heart of Ada.



Wesley Deason
Parks Director

The first phase of construction will focus on the north side of the park along River Street. Planned improvements include enhancements to the Veterans Memorial, expanded green space, increased street-side parking, riverbank restoration, new walkways, and ample bench seating to take in the scenery. This phase is expected to be completed by late 2025.

The secondary work will shift to the south side of the park, where the current ballfield is located. With a broader range of new amenities planned, this portion will require a longer construction timeline and is slated to open to the public in June 2026.

Covered Bridge Park has been thoughtfully designed to reflect the diverse needs of our community. From gathering spaces and passive recreation to innovative play areas, the park will offer something for everyone—regardless of age or interest. If you, your family, business, or organization are interested in finding a meaningful way to financially contribute to this project, we have an assortment of donation opportunities available, including the ability to sponsor a park bench, picnic table, play area, and other items.



To learn more about this project and to make a donation, you can visit www.connectingcommunitycampaign.com or stop by Town Hall to inquire and gather additional details.

We look forward to bringing this vision to life and continuing our commitment to providing exceptional parks and facilities for all to enjoy.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE DAY

We're coordinating efforts for a volunteer service day on Tuesday, July 22nd from 9a-12p and need your help! Come lend a hand at Carl Creek Crossing Preserve (6230 Grand River Dr NE, Ada) as we collect trash, address and remove invasive plants, restore trails, and perform overall park beautification tasks.

Some tools will be available, but volunteers are encouraged to bring work gloves, a rake, shovel, and/or loppers. Water and light snacks will be provided, along with lunch at the end of the event as a thank-you for your time and effort.

Both individual and group support is welcomed. Those interested may register by simply scanning the QR code or contact Wesley Deason directly (wdeason@adatownshipmi.com or 616.920.7853).

FACILITY RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Ada Parks & Recreation Department offers a variety of rental facilities perfect for family reunions, birthday parties, and other special occasions. Whether you're planning something casual or more formal, we have spaces to fit your needs.

To explore available venues and check availability, visit: adamichigan.org/township/departments/parks-recreation/facility-rentals

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Soccer League

There's still time to join the second summer of adult soccer at Ada Park! Played on Tuesday nights, teams receive a minimum of seven games with the chance to qualify for a playoff bracket! Referee fees included!

Dates: June - August Time: Tuesday evenings (6p-9p) Location: Ada Park Fee: $475/team

Phone Photography 101: Action & Sports

Capture the energy of the moment! This phone photography workshop focuses on action and sports photography, teaching kids and parents how to freeze motion, adjust settings for fast-moving subjects, and compose dynamic shots. Whether it's a game, a bike ride, or a day at the park, you'll learn how to take sharp, exciting photos—and edit them for maximum impact. Registration closes June 9.

Date: Wednesday, June 11th Time: 1p-2:30p Fee: $20/participant
Location: Amy Van Andel Library – Community Room 2

Paradigm in the Park

Ada Parks & Recreation is proud to collaborate with Paradigm Fitness to offer FREE community fitness classes! These weekly classes are a unique opportunity to break a sweat and create a happier, healthier lifestyle. All classes are led by certified Paradigm Fitness staff and can be modified to fit your fitness journey! All experience levels are welcome. Equipment provided.



Dates: June 18th – July 31st *no class on July 3rd
Time: Tuesday & Thursday mornings 9a-10a
Location: Ada Park Fee: FREE!

Introduction to Drawing Workshop

Join local artist Scott Kenyon for an inspiring introduction to drawing class where you'll learn the fundamentals of sketching, shading, detail, perspective, and texture. This hands-on class is perfect for beginners or those looking to refresh their skills through personalized instruction in a relaxed environment. Registration closes four days prior to the class date.

Date: Thursday June 19th, Thursday July 17th, or Thursday August 14th
Time: 6p-8p
Location: Amy Van Andel Library – Community Room 1
Fee: $30/participant

Community Campout

Looking to introduce your family to camping? Bring the family to Ada Park for the 2nd annual Community Campout! Spend your time full of family-based outdoor activities, including a bounce house, attend an animal lecture, and stop by the bonfire for s'mores and stories! Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast are included in registration. Get your site before it's gone!



Dates: Saturday, September 13th – Sunday, September 14th
Fee: $50/campsite
Time: Check-In begins at 3pm, Check-out is at 10:30am
Location: Ada Park

BEERS AT THE BRIDGE
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



Kevin Austin
Downtown Development
Authority Director

The Beers at the Bridge (BATB) summer concert series prepares to usher in the summer while passing a major milestone. Taking a hiatus in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the event celebrates its 10-year anniversary this year. Originally beginning in 2015, the outdoor celebration brought residents and visitors together to strengthen community, enjoy talented musicians, sample local beers, and embrace Michigan summer. Since that time, the event has grown in popularity and attendance along with our growing community. Originally taking place in the shadow of our historic Covered Bridge, the event is set to have its third year within Legacy Park, capitalizing on the central location and vibrant core of the township.

This year's concert series kicks off on June 20, when the township proudly welcomes Kari Lynch and the Kari Lynch Band back to our amphitheater to wow us with an awesome alt-country rock performance blending her powerful vocals with emotive lyrics.

A noteworthy change this year is that Beers at the Bridge will be hosted on only two dates this summer, being June 20th and August 15th. The township will be hosting and coordinating an exciting celebration for the 4th of July and encourages all residents to spend the start of their holiday weekend with the community in Downtown Ada.

On August 15th, The Soul Syndicate returns to the Beers at the Bridge Stage to once again provide an excellent soundtrack to this amazing tradition. With their masterful musicians, excellent vocals, and dynamic horn section, The Soul Syndicate pays amazing tribute to the best Funk, Soul and R&B hits of our time. This crowd-pleasing performance will fill the warm air with joy and perfectly accompany a summer sunset.

Beers at the Bridge has grown into a premier, free, family-friendly event in the greater Grand Rapids area and continues to demonstrate to visitors and residents alike why Ada Township is such a great place to be. Attendees can enjoy food for purchase from local establishments and purchase drink tickets for beverages from Gravel Bottom Craft Brewery and Railtown Brewing.

The past success of this event is owed to our Sponsor's and Volunteers. The township has many sponsor opportunities for both vendors and businesses as well as exciting and rewarding volunteer opportunities. Please contact DDA Director Kevin Austin to get further information on these opportunities: Kaustin@adatownshipmi.com

Beers at the Bridge 2025 performers include:

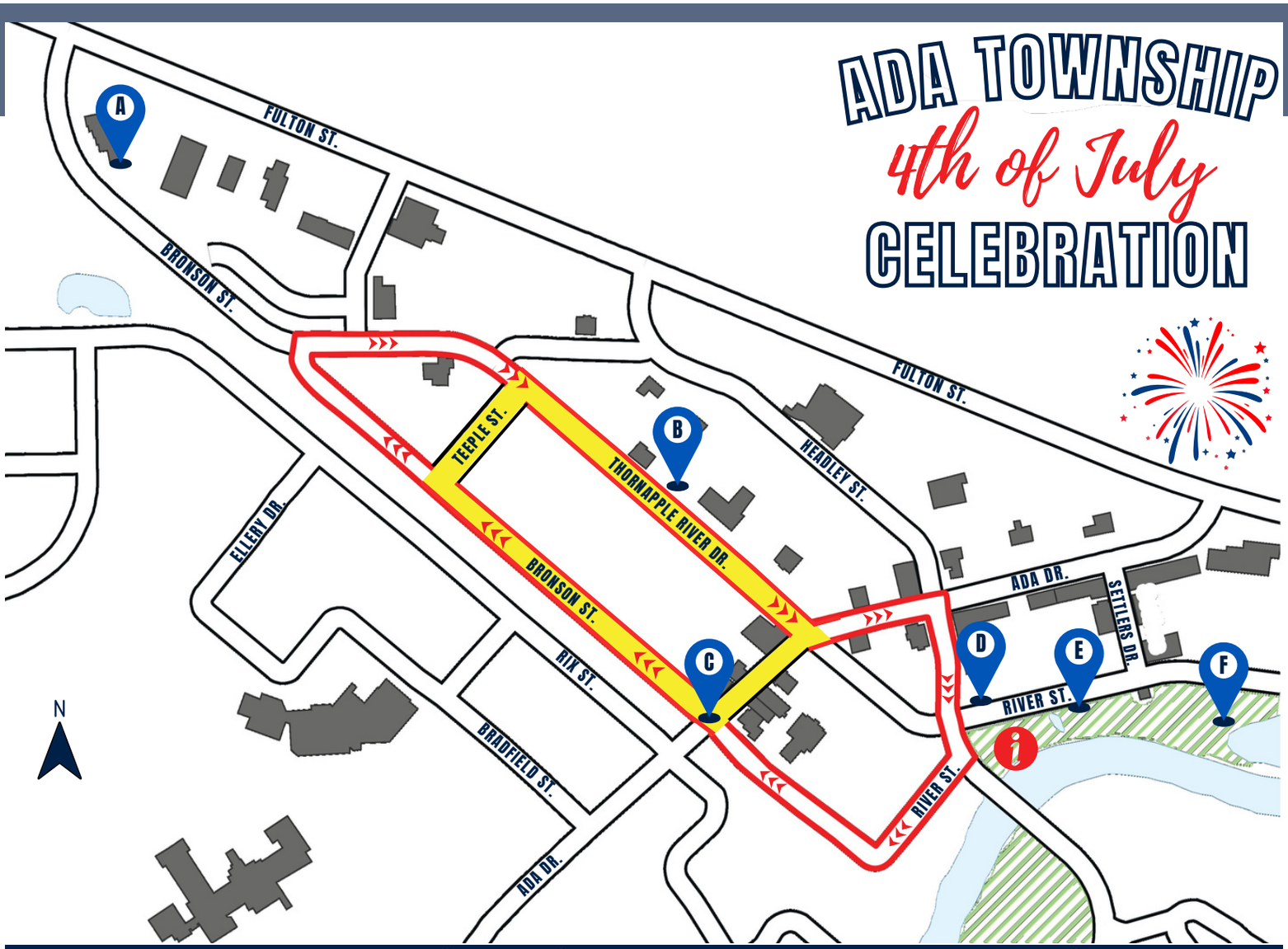
June 20: Kari Lynch

August 15: The Soul Syndicate

Volunteers can sign up at Beers at the Bridge Volunteer Signup through Signup Genius using the QR code:



ADA TOWNSHIP 4th of July CELEBRATION



2025 Festivities & Information

- A PANCAKE BREAKFAST
- B CHILDREN'S PARADE START/FINISH
- C MAIN PARADE START/FINISH
- D CAR SHOW
- E KIDS ACTIVITIES
- F LIVE MUSIC
- CHILDREN'S PARADE ROUTE
- MAIN PARADE ROUTE
- FIREWORKS DISPLAY AREA
- INFORMATION TENT

EVENT SCHEDULE

PANCAKE BREAKFAST @ FIRE STATION
7:00-9:30AM

CHILDREN'S BIKE PARADE
9:45-10:00AM

MAIN PARADE
10:00-11:00AM

CAR SHOW & KIDS ACTIVITIES
11:00-2:30PM

PARADE REGISTRATION

SCAN HERE

LIVE MUSIC @ LEGACY PARK
6:30-9:30PM

ADA-CASCADE FIREWORKS DISPLAY BEGINS
9:45-10:00PM (APPROX.)

THE 4TH OF JULY GRAND MARSHAL

Our Grand Marshal for this year is the fourth-generation team at Veenstra's in Ada. They are celebrating their 100th year in business and are currently operating on Fulton Street in both Ada and Grand Rapids. The original location on Lake Drive and Diamond in the Blackport Butcher Shop was started by John Veenstra, and later was joined by his son Gil. In the early 50's, Gil Veenstra relocated to Fulton Heights. Mike started working for Gil in 1979, and in took the reins in 1984, when Gil retired. In 2017, they opened a second location in Ada, where Mike's son Jason Veenstra is the General Manager.

As you can imagine, 100 years in business brings many stories and memories, including one customer who has her vehicle serviced by the first three generations of Veenstra's!

Congratulations to the Veenstra family on this milestone and on being part of the Ada community!



ADA FARMERS MARKET

We're thrilled to kick off another incredible season of the Ada Farmers Market, running every Tuesday from June 3 to October 28 from 9am to1pm! Located at The Community Church, the market is your go-to spot for fresh, local, and handcrafted goods all summer long.

Each week, you'll find over 40 vendors offering a vibrant mix of seasonal produce, locally made foods, baked goods, flowers, handmade crafts, and more. Whether you're looking to stock your pantry, pick up dinner, or find a unique gift, there's something for everyone at the market.

We're also planning fun monthly events and themed days throughout the season—like Karaoke at the market, scavanger hunt at the market, and other fun activities!
Follow us on social media or subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated on weekly highlights, live entertainment, kids' activities, and giveaways.

The Farmers Market is more than a place to shop—it's a place to connect. It brings neighbors together, supports small businesses, and builds a healthier, more vibrant community.

We're so excited to welcome back familiar faces and meet new ones this season.

See you on Tuesdays at the market!



RESIDENTIAL REVIEWS FROM ASSESSING

It is that time of year again for our office to conduct our annual residential reviews. Homeowners in the selected residential neighborhood review area will receive a letter and questionnaire from our office in the mail. We encourage homeowners to complete and return the questionnaire to help us make sure we have current and accurate information.



Stephanie Boerman
Assessor

Below is a list of the neighborhoods that we will be reviewing this year:

- 4064 – Royal Oak Estates/Thorn Wood/Buttrick
- 4070 – Ada Moorings
- 4072 – Ada Meadow
- 4170 – FHS (Med Density)
- 4189 – Old Rhodes
- 4250 – Higher End Homes
- 4340 – Country Homes

Conducting a review of Township properties is not only a requirement of the State of Michigan but also a way for us to make sure our records are accurate for fair and equitable assessments.

Our residential appraisers will review the information, along with current property record card and recent aerial photography, and prepare the record card for next year's market study and valuation. Part of this review process is to visit each property and take an exterior picture of the outside of the front of the home. Our vehicles are marked with the Ada Township logo and our assessing staff should always carry a photo id and present when requested.

For more information, please call the Assessing Office at 616-676-9191 ext. 7341 or visit Township Hall at 7330 Thornapple River Dr, Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT - Board Profiles

Many community residents may not be aware of all of the functions and duties carried out by the Township, including by their appointed boards. This includes the Planning Commission (PC) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), both of whom have a very important role in local government, including and especially Ada Township.These two boards are responsible for reviewing proposals associated with land development, construction, and zoning, and their powers are identified both in State law and the Township's Municipal Code, including the Zoning Ordinance within the Municipal Code. The Township's Planning Department provides professional staff support to both boards.



John Said
Planning Director

The Planning Commission's duties primarily consist of the following types of requests: Special Uses of land, changing zoning (called "rezonings" or "map amendments"), Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), and Planned Village Mixed-Use (PVM) Development Plans.

The Zoning Board of Appeals duties primarily consist of the following requests: Variances to the Zoning Ordinance and appeals to staff decisions.

Members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals are all local residents, with the PC having 7 members and the ZBA having 5. All are appointed to their positions by the Township Supervisor, with the approval of the Township Board. When each member joins, they go through a training orientation session with Township Staff, and take periodic training (typically annually) to help maintain and enhance their skills. Training, which is completed outside of monthly meetings, is done either online or in person, and typically involves hearing from experts and reviewing case studies.

All Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings are public, and any interested resident (or other party) is welcome to attend! The PC typically meets the third Thursday monthly at 5:30 p.m., while the ZBA usually meets the first Tuesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Township Hall. Schedules, agendas, and packets for all meetings are available on the Township's website, and everyone is encouraged to attend future meetings of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals to learn more about development in the community!

ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT



David Murray
Fire Chief

Did you know Smoke Detectors should be replaced every 10 years? If you have ever experienced the chirping of a detector in the middle of the night you can understand the need to replace them. We have a large supply of Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for homes in our Township and they are FREE! Give us a call and let's get your detectors replaced. The new detectors operate with a 10-year battery, so no replacing batteries every year.

Firefighters needed!

The Fire Department is looking to add paid on-call members to team. We are specifically looking for folks living on the north end of the Township. Our Station Two is located on Knapp Street and operates a medical unit, fire truck, tanker truck and grass fire truck. We provide paid training for both the Fire Academy and EMT training, clothing allowance, a retirement plan, and a monthly department dinner. This is a paid on-call position so you can maintain your full time career without interruption while serving your community and earning some extra money. If you are even a little bit interested give Chief David Murray a call 616-676-2376. We guarantee you will enjoy being part of the team!

PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENT



Nick Dewy (right) has been named the new Deputy Chief of the Ada Township Fire Department! Nick has been a lifelong resident of Ada and a member of the Fire Department since 2004. He started as a paid on-call firefighter then moving into a full time position in 2014 where he has served as a Lieutenant. Nick will move from the 24-hour shift to a traditional Monday – Friday schedule. This allows us to maintain a staffing level of three firefighters which is vital when most of our paid on-call members are at their regular careers during the week day. Congratulations Nick!

A PILLAR OF OUR ADA COMMUNITY



On March 25th the Township lost one of its top volunteers, Frank Hoover. If you came to clean-up day, July 4th activities, bought a wreath from the Ada History Center or voted at St. Roberts you knew Frank. A lifelong resident growing up in the village and raising a family in the Adacroft development he had a passion for our town and its history. After retiring from Consolidated Freight, you could find Frank walking the Ada Drive Trail and through the Village daily. Frank was a great friend of the Ada Fire Department where the guys surprised him with an 80th birthday party just last year. Frank volunteered for many Township events, worked as an Election Inspector with the Clerk's Office, was a volunteer for the Ada History Center and was a member of the Ada Historical Center Board of Trustees. Frank is survived by his wife, daughters and many family members who all make Ada their home. Frank's love for Ada and his dedication to the Ada community will be felt for many years.

ADA HISTORY CENTER: HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS



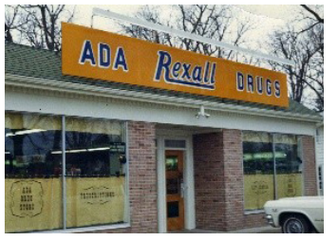
New Exhibit: CHANGE

Summer is a great time to wander down to the museum for a change of pace. We change the subject each year with a new exhibit on local history. This year's explores the past, present, and future changes of six icons: the dam, the riverfront, town hall, the post office, the land at the covered bridge, and "the intersection". Come check it out!

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesdays in June, July & August – Music on the Lawn.** 7:00pm at Legacy Park. We're pleased to offer the 23rd season of Ada's summer concerts in partnership with Ada Parks and Recreation. Check online for current line-up and schedule updates.
- **Friday, June 27 – Tour of the Ada Dam.** 3-5:00pm. In conjunction with our current exhibit CHANGE, we offer a tour of the Ada dam. **Pre-registration is required**, call 616.676.9346 or email AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com to reserve a spot.
- **Thursday, August 14 – Historic Village Walking Tour.** 5pm beginning at Legacy Park. Let's walk through history looking at the changes to the heart of Ada's village. Tour covers roughly a mile in one hour.
- **Thursdays, June 12, July 10 & August 14 - Ada Historical Society Board Meetings.** 3:00pm at the Ada History Center. Meetings are open to the public. Join us to find out how we're making history.

Historical Spotlight: Ada Pharmacy



Ada drugstore c. 1970



Ada drugstore c. 1910

One near constant through generations of change has been a pharmacy in the village. In the early 1900s, James Bristol operated Ada Drugstore from a wood frame building where Godwin Ada Hardware is today. He had a barrel of whiskey in the back room. All you needed was to bring your own jug to fill. His store was also where Ada's first lightbulb was strung up and first telephone was installed. In December 1962, Ada Drug opened in a building located roughly where MudPenny is today. Owner Steve Haarman had a soda bar, drugstore merchandise, and a liquor license. Many local teens came for a pop, a candy bar, and a summer job. More recently, Ada Hillside Pharmacy opened in 1999 in Fulton Street's Ada Hillside Center and the current Ada Village Pharmacy on River Street opened its doors in 2022.

www.AdaHistoryCenter.org
616.676.9346
7144 Headley St., PO Box 741
Ada, MI 49301
AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com
Open Tuesdays, Fridays & the 1st Saturday of the month, 1-4:00pm OR BY APPOINTMENT.

ADA HISTORY CENTER
50 years Ada HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Preserve Share Celebrate
25 years Averill HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1870 1999

Ada History Center is a non-profit organization that preserves, shares, and celebrates the unique history of the Ada community. At the Ada History Center, you can find the activities of the Ada Historical Society, local history exhibits, and park-like gardens and grounds. For up-to-date hours, programming and more, check our website www.AdaHistoryCenter.org

AMY VAN ANDEL LIBRARY

Summer is especially fun at the Amy Van Andel Library! We have a packed schedule full of exciting guests and presenters. Here is just a small sampling of what we have going on this season. For a full list of summer programs, please visit kdl.org/events and don't forget to come see storytime at the Farmer's Market every Tuesday at 10:00am!

Critter Barn

Wednesday, June 11, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Critter Barn's Traveling Farm will feature hands-on fun, entertainment and education. (For all ages)

Teen | Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Wednesday, June 11

It's esports time for teens! Bring your friends to compete at Super Smash Bros. using Nintendo Switch. Many will enter, but only one will be crowned champion!

Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 5 minutes before the program begins. (For teens ages 11-17)

Chasing the Aurora Below the 45th Parallel: What it Takes to Catch the Northern Lights

Thursday, July 10, 6:30 PM

Join Melissa Kaelin, founder of Michigan Aurora Chasers and author of Beyond the 45th Parallel, to discover how to view the Northern Lights. Learn how an Aurora is created and the best methods for predicting an Aurora display. (For adults 18+)

Teen | Intro to Macramé

Wednesday, July 16, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Master two essential knots and create your own small wall hanging. Learn the basic techniques in a hands-on session and leave with a unique piece of art that reflects your newfound knot-tying skills. (For teens ages 11 –17)

Circus Dancing

Wednesday, July 23, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

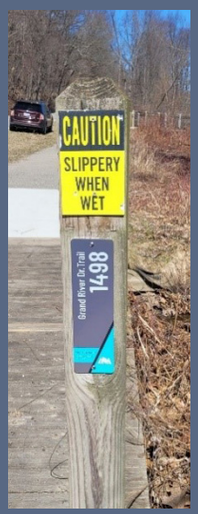
Experience an interactive, high-energy performance blending dance, movement and circus arts with props like hula hoops, poi, levitation wands and juggling hats. Enjoy exciting demos and hands-on audience participation while learning fun circus skills. (For all ages)

Kent District Library
kdl.org

TOWNSHIP TRAILS UPDATE

• Pettis Avenue Phase II (Chief Hazy Cloud Entrance to Vergennes St.)—Following significant review, the Township Board decided to locate the trail on the north side of Pettis Avenue. This project was awarded to C&D Hughes in February, and its completion date is August 30, 2025. However, the contractor is confident that most of the work will be completed by the middle of July. Pettis Avenue will remain open during construction, with traffic being restricted to one lane of traffic with the use of "traffic flaggers" that will allow traffic to alternate north/south flows through the one open lane during construction. Both lanes of Pettis will be open during non-working hours.

• For maintenance in 2025, the Township is reviewing repaving a portion of the Grand River Drive Trail. A full review will be completed this spring to identify the full extent of the repair. The Township is committed to a regular annual maintenance program to ensure we properly maintain existing trails.



• Wayfinding Signage – Several of the signs have been installed throughout the system and others will be coming online through the end of May. If you would like to see pictures of the signs installed, please visit our website. A bridge identifying marker installed as part of the project is shown in the picture here.

• Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge—The Township Engineer is finalizing the final engineering layout prior to bidding the project. The preliminary timeline is to issue bids on June 30, receive bids by July 31, award the contract on August 11, and have the contractor begin work on the bridge abutments in September/October. The bridge structure will be placed in the Spring of 2026.

Please check out our website at www.adatownshipmi.com and click "Departments – Parks & Recreation - Trails," for additional updates, pictures and videos highlighting the work done to date. If you have any questions about the Trails projects under construction or consideration in future years please contact Julius Suchy, Township Manager at jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com. Report any maintenance issues on the trails to Dennis Brinks, Buildings, Facilities & Grounds Director at 616-676-0520 or dbrinks@adatownshipmi.com.

SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

06.03
Farmer's Market Opening Day! 9am-1pm
The Community Church (7239 Thornapple River Dr SE)
Every Tuesday thru 10.28

06.04
Music on the Lawn Opening Night!
7pm-9pm
Prior Noon (Country)
Legacy Park

06.07
Rides on River Street
12pm-3pm
River Street
Please note: River Street Road Closure

06.11
Music on the Lawn
7pm-9pm
Kelly Quinn Experience (Blues)
Legacy Park

06.20
Beers at the Bridge
Kari Lynch
6pm-9pm
Legacy Park

06.25
Music on the Lawn
7pm-9pm
Yacht Rocket (Yacht Rock)
Legacy Park

06.27
Tour of the Ada Dam
3pm-5pm
Hosted by the Ada History Center (Prereg. Required)



JULY

07.04
4th of July Celebration
Parade- 9:45am-11am
Car Show- 11am-2:30pm
Kids Activities- 11am-2:30pm
Music- 6:30pm-9:30pm
Fireworks- 9:45pm
Legacy Park- ALL DAY!

07.09
Music on the Lawn
7pm-9pm
Bare Naked Vinyl (Classic Rock)
Legacy Park

07.12
Cars and Coffee
10am-1pm
Ada Hotel Parking Lot
Please note: Hotel Parking Lot Closure

07.23
Music on the Lawn
7pm-9pm
Nathan Walton & The Remedy (Soulful Rock)
Legacy Park

07.30
Music on the Lawn
7pm-9pm
The Frog King (Neil Diamond Tribute)
Legacy Park



AUGUST

08.06
Music on the Lawn
7pm-9pm
Space Bar (Jazz)
Legacy Park

08.09
Cars and Coffee
10am-1pm
Ada Hotel Parking Lot
Please note: Hotel Parking Lot Closure

08.15
Beers at the Bridge
The Soul Syndicate
6pm-9pm
Legacy Park

08.22 & 08.23
Tent Sale and Sidewalk Sale
10am-6pm
Ada Village

TOWNSHIP

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE
P.O. BOX 370
Ada, MI 49301

CALENDAR 2025 SUMMER ISSUE

JUNE

3 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 P.M.
9 Ada Township Board of Trustees - **12:00 P.M.**
12 Planning Commission - 5:30 P.M.
16 Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors - 8:00 A.M.
18 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30 A.M., Roselle Park
19 Juneteenth Holiday - OFFICES CLOSED

JULY

1 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 P.M.
4 4th of July Holiday - OFFICES CLOSED
14 Ada Township Board of Trustees - **12:00 P.M.**
15 Board of Review - 8:00 A.M., Ada Library
17 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30 A.M., Roselle Park
17 Planning Commission - 5:30 P.M.
21 Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors - 8:00 A.M.

AUGUST

5 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 P.M.
11 Ada Township Board of Trustees - **12:00 P.M.**
18 Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors - 8:00 A.M.
21 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30 A.M., Roselle Park
21 Planning Commission - 5:30 P.M.

Like our new format or want your AdaView via emailed? Let us know:
info@adamichigan.org

Designed by Erin McIntosh, Deputy Clerk

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WAYS TO CONNECT WITH US

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Ada Village

company/ada-township