



ADA Township Joining Grand Valley Metro Council

On Monday evening Grand Rapids Township Supervisor Mike DeVries and I made a presentation to the Ada Township Board. At the conclusion of our presentation, the Ada Township Board voted unanimously to formally join GVMC.

Metro Council Chairman and Grandville Mayor Jim Buck stated *"We are very pleased with Ada's decision to join GVMC. We look forward to working closely with them as full participants of our collaborative efforts"*.

As a spotlight on our newest member, here are some historical facts about the community.

Ada was founded in 1821 by fur trader Rix Robinson. The first land purchase was made in 1833, and the first plat was recorded in 1857. A post office was established in 1837. Both the township and the settlement were named on behalf of Ada Smith, the daughter of the first postmaster. Over the years, Ada Township has strived to retain much of the rural charm and pristine natural beauty that originally attracted many of the community's 10,000-plus residents to the area. Over 400 acres of township-owned property are available for use by residents--300 of which are prime riverfront acreage.

Ada Township not only has a strong history, but a tremendous



Ada's Famous Covered Bridge

future as well. Home of Amway Corporation, Ada and the company are partnering together to redevelop Ada Village. Amway has recently purchased 35 acres of property in the village and will be working with the Township and Downtown Development Association on the revitalization of the area. This provides a tremendous opportunity for a significant public/private partnership in our region.

According to Ada Township Supervisor George Haga, *"Being a part of the GVMC Board will provide Ada Township as a partner in the in the decision making process instead of only participating in several of the agencies. Ada is looking forward to working with the GVMC to make West Michigan the best it can be."*

Township Clerk Susan Burton added, *" I am totally committed to the reality, that Ada's membership in Metro Council is an absolute necessity, and am very pleased the our Board agrees!"*

Transportation Town Hall Meeting

Also on Monday several West Michigan Legislators and Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle held a Town Hall Meeting on transportation funding. Lawmakers taking part in Monday's town hall included, Rep. Rob VerHeulen, Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons, Rep. Peter MacGregor, Rep. Thomas Hooker, and Rep. Ken Yonker. These legislators along with several others attended our GVMC Street Summit in April.

The MDOT Director and Legislators sought public input on the proposals for increased funding for transportation. Many of our members and also the GVMC Board of Directors have adopted resolutions calling on the Michigan Legislature to increase funding to finance much needed repairs on our public roadways.

Several GVMC and local officials attended and spoke at the meeting. Steve Warren, Managing Director of the Kent County Road Commission stated after the meeting, " It was obvious the support that our region has for improving and maintaining our transportation infrastructure. I was encouraged that so many speakers were in favor of finding permanent solutions to our transportation infrastructure needs."