



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Fall, 2007

INCUMBENTS RETAIN COUNCIL SEATS

On Tuesday, September 11th residents went to the polls to elect three trustees for four-year terms. Five candidates threw in their hats into this election.

Eighty-six voters went to the polls. The results are as follows:

Delores Tripp -	65
Bill Gollnitz -	64
David Leckie -	42
Karl Ochadleus -	28
Steve Kates -	27

This election was different than past elections in that there were challengers for the open seats. The last time this occurred was in 2004.

Trustees have varied backgrounds from legal to engineering to teaching. This diversity brings a lot of expertise to the Council.

Many trustees initially gained experience in Village government by joining various Boards, mainly the Design Review Board or the Planning Commission.

To find out how to apply for a vacant seat, call the Village office or send a short letter stating your interest and giving a summary of your background.

BASCC SETS DATE FOR FLU SHOTS

The Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council & Center will hold its Annual Flu Immunization Clinic from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16** at the center located at 2121 Midvale in Birmingham.

Flu shots are free for those with Medicare Part B, Care Choices or HAP insurance plans. Be sure to have your insurance card. For all others the cost is

\$25.00.

The vaccine is offered on a first come, first serve basis. Numbers will be issued as individuals arrive.

For more information contact the BASCC Outreach Dept. at 248-203-5270.



LARGE ITEM PICK UP SET FOR OCTOBER 4TH

Looking for a way to dispose of those bulky items? Help is here.

The Village's semi-annual large item pick up will be Thursday, October 4, 2007. All you have to do is set the item at the street. Car Trucking, who handles all the rubbish pick up for the Village, will haul it away. And then it's gone...for good.

The purpose of the pick up is to give residents the opportunity to dispose of sofas, chairs, washing machines and similar large items without charge.

The contractor will also pick up freezers and refrigerators with doors and the Freon removed prior to placing the item at the street. Car Trucking is not licensed to remove Freon.

The Village has located several companies who remove Freon for a fee. They are:

1. John R. Appliance, located at 26529 John R in Madison Heights (248) 541-8696,
2. Mr. B's. Hauling, located at 27453 Dover Ave in Warren (586) 759-0457.
3. 888-TRASH-IT (1-888-872-7448).
4. The Salvation Army will take working appliances.

The large item pick up is not an opportunity to clean out the attic or

basement or for residents cleaning out their home prior to moving. Several times in the recent past, a few homeowners have boxes, lamps, bookcases and books lined up halfway down the street and halfway down their driveway.

A few other regulations apply. Car Trucking will only take one 32-gallon garbage can filled with construction material. If you have more, arrange a special pick up.

Please remember that it takes Car Trucking longer to pick up all the refuse on large item pick up days. So, don't worry if your trash is not picked up at the usual time.

All items (regular trash and large items) must be at the street by 7:00 a.m. For the large item pick up only, the Village allows those items to be placed at the street the weekend before pick up.



Car Trucking has sole discretion whether to pick up excessive amounts of material. If there is any question relative to the amount of items to dispose of, call Car Trucking. It may be best to have a dumpster delivered to your home. While there is a charge, it may be a better way than to chance that your items will not be picked up. If you have any questions, contact Car Trucking at (586) 791-8480.

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 22, 2007
November 26, 2007
December 17, 2007

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

ARE WE WINNING THE BATTLE WITH THE WEST NILE VIRUS?

Are we winning the battle against the mosquitoes? As of mid September it looks as if that answer is a resounding "yes". Whether it's due to the fairly dry summer or to the precautions people are taking, the number of human cases in the entire state is down. Unbelievably, only one human case has been reported so far this year.



Last year, there were 50 human cases reported in Michigan. There were no deaths reported.

The height of West Nile cases was in 2002 when 644 cases were reported and when 51 people died from the virus.

Prevention measures are working. The best advice — keep doing what you are doing.

Be assured, that even though the data shows infestation is down, those pesky mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus are still here. Reports of dead birds continue throughout the state.

Most people infected with West Nile do not show any symptoms. Twenty percent, however have flu-like symptoms, including fever, fatigue, headache and muscle or joint pain. Less than 1% of infected humans become severely ill.

The Oakland County Health Dept. maintains that prevention is the best method to combat the virus. Specifically,

- ♦ Reduce areas where mosquitoes breed
- ♦ Repel to protect against mosquitoes and
- ♦ Report potential mosquito breeding areas.

Other measures that can reduce the risk of contracting the virus include:

- ♦ Repair all holes in window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- ♦ Empty water from mosquito breeding sites such as buckets, barrels,

cans, old tires, or similar sites.

- ♦ Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active (dawn and dusk).
- ♦ Wear light colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- ♦ Apply insect repellants that contain the active ingredient DEET to exposed skin or clothing. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for use. (Avoid applying repellent containing DEET to children less than two years of age.)

If you find any dead birds, report it to the Oakland County Health Division Hotline at 1-877-377-3641. Then, properly dispose of the bird. Wear gloves to protect yourself from direct contact with the bird.

For updates on West Nile Virus, log on to the state or county website at :

www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus
or
www.oakgov.com.

LOOKING FOR THE LATEST VILLAGE INFORMATION?
LOG ONTO THE VILLAGE WEBSITE AT
www.binghamfarms.org

FALL BUG HUNT

Do you love nature and enjoy involvement in community events?

The Friends of the Rouge has announced its Fall Bug Hunt to be held on Saturday, October 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Annual Bug Hunt helps Friends assess the health of the Rouge River by searching for critters in the streambed.

Volunteers are divided into teams. These teams, led by trained volunteers, travel to two different sites in the headwaters of the Rouge River Watershed to obtain samples.

The remaining volunteers will sort through the samples for benthic macroinvertebrates (more commonly referred to as "bugs", but more appropriately, animals without a backbone that live in the streambed for all or part of their life cycle). The number and diversity of the organisms found at each site provides information on the health of the stream.



No experience is necessary. Children are welcome when accompanied by one adult per child.

But hurry, registration is required. Call Friends of the Rouge at 313-792-9621 or email picoordinator@therouge.org.

Check out the Friends of the Rouge website at www.therouge.org. This organization conducts many programs throughout the year.

THE VILLAGE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS
November 22 & 23
December 24-31
January 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Jane Bauer

**Those falling leaves float by my window,
Those falling leaves of red and gold.
Although I rake and rake, the leaves still fall
And I must rake some more, I'll get them all**

Here we are, watching the leaves turn (and turn, and turn, as they fall off the trees). The cooler weather brought us out of air-conditioned summer hibernation and we started some of the strenuous work around the yard. We love the autumn with its to-do list: cider, donuts, football, neighborhood walks and watching the trees show off their flamboyant new dresses (and yard work).

We hope that this fall will be one of your favorites. When you drive through our Village, remember that school is in session and it seems that we have a lot more children using our roads. Is our village getting younger?

Your re-election of David Leckie, Dolores Tripp and William Gornitz reaffirmed your satisfaction with our trustees and their handling of village affairs.

Please remember that changes to your property or buildings might require a special permit because of the potential effect on neighboring properties. Please contact our Village Office to determine whether a permit is needed. The Village Master Plan is always available for reference.

Walking in the Village, remember that cars have the right of way. If we pedestrians stay on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic, we can see vehicles coming our way. On the other

hand, cyclists must ride on the right side of the road with traffic and give as much of the road to cars as possible.

Speeding cars are still a major concern. "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25." We don't want anyone harmed by a speeding car.

Every once in a while, a stranger may knock on your door to sell something or to ask for information or help. If this appears suspicious, don't hesitate to call our police at **248-626-9672** to check it out. Response to a phone call is normally within five minutes. Keep an eye on the direction the stranger is heading. Be security conscious.

Since this is a quarterly newsletter, we want to encourage you to decorate your houses for Christmas, Chanukah and the winter solstice. These darkest days of the year can always use a little cheer.

Don't let plowed or blowing snow obscure your mail boxes or fire hydrants near your house.

And with the indoor social season impending, your President, Trustees and Professional Staff want to wish you a Goody-filled Halloween, a Bountiful Thanksgiving, a Happy Chanukah, a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

It's Decal Time

As fall approaches, we often check our automobiles to ensure that they are prepared for the winter season ahead. While you are doing that, or even if you are not, check to see that each vehicle carries the Bingham Farms decal. That is a small (3"x3") translucent blue/green decal which should be affixed to a rear window in each vehicle. While there are no letters or numbers in the decal, only a small depiction of trees and water, the decal identifies that vehicle as "belonging" here in the Village.

When our police department, or your mobile watch organization, is looking for things "out of the ordinary", your car with decal will not be one requiring a license plate search through police files. Displaying your decal could save a lot of people a lot of time.

If you have a car or truck without a Bingham Farms decal, that problem can be solved very quickly. Ask any member of Bingham Farms Mobile Watch to have one or more delivered to you, without charge, or call Dick Holloway at 248/644-2622.

By Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

BURNING LEAVES IS ALLOWED IN THE VILLAGE With Regulations (Chapter 50.02)

1. Do not burn leaves, grass or rubbish on any paved or bituminous surfaced street;
2. Do not burn any type of refuse where smoke, ashes or odor will create a nuisance, public or private;
3. Do not burn rubbish closer than 15 feet to a building;
4. Do not leave a rubbish fire unattended;

Any questions, call the Village office at 248-644-0044.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

School is back in session and it's important that everyone work together in making it a safe and enjoyable school year for the students.

Here's a refresher course for drivers approaching a stopped school bus.

•When the overhead yellow lights on a school bus are flashing be prepared to stop.

Drive with caution if you see the yellow hazard warning lights flashing on a moving or stopped school bus. Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks. Watch for children gathering near a school bus stop.

•When the overhead red lights on a school bus are flashing, possibly accompanied by an extended stop sign arm, you must stop. State law requires you to stop at least 20 feet from the front or rear of a school bus when red lights are flashing. Wait until the red flashing lights have been deactivated to proceed.

The Office of Highway Safety Planning has stated "If motorists remember that school buses are like traffic signals, chances are greater that children will get on and off the bus safely".

Additional tips on school bus safety can be found on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's web site: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>. Take the time to talk to the teen drivers in your household and make this a safe school year.



PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES

Over the years we've seen a variety of items that have become the target of thieves who break into cars. In the 70's it was 8 track tape players, in the 80's CB radios and cassette players, and in the late 80's, early 90's mobile phones.

Today the hot item is Global Positioning Systems (GPS). The thief will cruise a parking lot or a residential street looking for a GPS device that is easily visible from outside of the car.

It takes just seconds for the thief to break the window and grab the device.

In the past two months, nine break-ins of vehicles were reported just in Bingham Farms. In almost all of the incidents a GPS (global positioning system) was stolen.



Simple preventive measures can greatly lessen your chances of being the victim of a theft from your vehicle.

- Always lock your vehicle.
- Never leave any items of value in plain view. Put them in the trunk or take it with you.
- Use your car alarm.
- At night, park in well lit areas.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity to the Police Department, no matter how trivial you may think it is.

One thief is now behind bars. An alert employee in one of the office buildings on Telegraph Rd. noticed a vehicle cruising the parking lot. They immediately called 9-1-1.

Our officers located the vehicle and apprehended the driver. Inside the car was a stolen laptop computer and several stolen GPS devices.

By working together, we can keep our Village safe.

NEW OFFICER HIRED

On September 6th a new police officer joined the Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department.

Michael Bastianelli is a ten year veteran of the Detroit Police Department. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and received additional police training at Detective School, Firearms Instructor School, Field Training Officer School and Executive Protection School.

He is currently an instructor at Schoolcraft College's Police Academy and the Wayne County Police Reserve Academy.

Officer Bastianelli comes from a family of police officers. One brother is with the Farmington Hills Police Department and the other with Sterling Heights.

Officer Bastianelli and his wife Heather have a two year old son and a month old daughter.

Chief Browne recognizes the expertise of Officer Bastianelli stating "His level of experience, the commitment he brings to the job and his desire to serve the residents of Franklin and Bingham Farms is a welcomed addition to our department".

He replaces Sgt. Ed Girardot who retired in May.

The Village of Bingham Farms extends a warm welcome to Officer Bastianelli.



POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

DISPATCH 248-626-5444

POLICE DEPT. 248-626-9672

The tips on this page are provided by Police Chief Patrick Browne Franklin/Bingham Farms Police Dept.

DISPOSING OF HHW

The Village holds an Annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off in June. At that time residents can dispose of these products in an environmentally-friendly manner.

However, there are times when residents just can't hold off until that June drop off yet they would still like to get rid of these items.

EQ Liquids, the company that runs Bingham Farms Annual Program, offers drop off service for residents year round. There is a charge to dispose of these items.

EQ Liquids take both regulated and non-regulated products. The list below is not all-inclusive.

Flammable/Corrosive \$5.00/unit gallon

- Oil-Based Paint
- Lighter Fluid
- Solvents
- Turpentine
- Fuel Oil
- Mineral Spirits
- Kerosene
- Furniture Polish
- Spot & Stain Removers
- Wood Stain & Preservatives



Corrosives \$6.80/unit gallon

- Oven Cleaners
- Rust Remover
- Photographic chemicals
- Swimming Pool Acid

Herbicides/Pesticides \$8.00/unit pound or unit gallon

- Algaecides
- Fly Strips
- Herbicides
- Weed Killer
- Ant & Roach Powder
- Insecticides
- Bug Sprays & Sticks
- Garden Dusts & Sprays



Aerosols \$1.25/can



Propane Gas Cylinders \$10.00 large \$5.00 small



Non-Regulated Materials \$3.00/unit gallon

- Latex Paint
- Antifreeze
- Glues
- Fertilizers (non hazardous)
- Car Wax
- Oil Filters
- Motor Oil & Additives
- Toilet Cleaners

The drop off facility is located at 2000 E. Ferry in Detroit. For more information, call the Village office or EQ Industrial Services at 734-329-8000.

RUBBISH PICK UP

THURSDAYS

Containers should not be placed at the street prior to 7:00 p.m. the night before pick up.

Containers must be removed from the street within 24 hours of pick up.

WINTER MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Most folks don't even want to think about this yet. But we must!

Winter really is coming. That means having to deal with that cold, blustery weather, ice storms (hopefully not too many) and snow shoveling (to some its fun, to others it's a chore). No matter what it won't go away.

So here are some winter weather reminders to get you through without too many headaches.

The Village will continue its contract with Johnson Landscaping to provide winter road maintenance, snow removal and salt application.

The snow plows are called out as soon as 1 1/2 inches has fallen on the roads. In heavy storms, the contractor will plow several times to keep the roads passable.

The Village will request additional work when conditions warrant. The decision to salt roads is based on the assessment of the police department.



Similar to last year, the Village will salt all the roads to make travel less challenging. However, remember, this is Michigan. Conditions can change in a matter of hours. Salt becomes less effective when the temperature dips below 20 degrees. All drivers, even in four wheel drive vehicles, need to drive according to the road conditions. It takes longer to stop on snow or ice covered roads.

Homeowners should also know there are state and local laws regarding snow removal.

It is illegal to plow snow across the roadway. Many private contractors take the fastest course doing just that. This practice creates rows of snow across the road. That snow can freeze, creating a potentially dangerous situation for cars and pedestrians. It also becomes more difficult for the Village snow contractor.

WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP AVAILABLE

How carefully did you read your tax bill? Did you happen to glance at the back of the bill? There was a special notice about wetlands from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

This notice was placed on the tax bill as a way to notify property owners that a county wetland inventory has been completed.

This map provides potential and approximate locations of wetlands. Property containing wetlands may be subject to regulation.

Most people are familiar with the cattail or lily pad wetland found in areas with standing water, but wetlands can also be grassy meadows, shrubby fields, or mature forests. Many wetland areas have only a high ground water table and standing water may not be visible. Types of wetlands include deciduous swamps, wet meadows, emergent marshes, conifer swamps, wet prairies, shrub-scrub swamps, fens, and bogs.



The major question for a property owner is how do I know if there is a wetland on my property? The DEQ has a Wetland Identification Program that helps property owners determine whether there are wetlands on the property, and if there are, whether they are regulated.

For more information log on to the DEQ website at www.michigan.gov/deq and search for Wetland Inventory Program. There are fees charged for this service.

CHRISTMAS TREES WILL BE PROPERLY DISPOSED OF BY CAR TRUCKING

PLACE THEM AT THE STREET ON THURSDAYS THROUGH



AT&T ROLLING OUT VIDEO PACKAGES

Is AT&T really offering competitive cable TV products in Bingham Farms? According to AT&T that answer is yes, in some areas. Unfortunately, they have not divulged exactly where that service is available.

According to Carmen Johnson, an AT&T representative, approximately 50% of the Village is ready. While this may seem like good news, it may be for some but not for all. AT&T has until **2009** to complete the build out.

But for residences that fall within that 50% wired area, look for AT&T notifications that they're looking for customers.

Another way to find out is to log on to AT&T's website www.iverse.att.com and put in either your phone number or address. It will say whether the system is available at your address.

If your address doesn't show up, there's another area on that site where you can plug in your email address and AT&T will notify you when it is available.

The AT&T U-Verse product offers wireless TV and internet using internet protocol technology.

HOW TO HOST YOUR OWN TV PROGRAM

Have you watched Channel 18 on your cable TV lately? Ever toyed with the idea of hosting your own show?

It's not as difficult as you think.



Step 1: Come up with the idea.

Step 2: Talk to the staff at Bloomfield Community TV. They will help you through from concept to airing.

Call 248-433-7790.

COMCAST CABLE SERVICE

It never fails. You're anxiously waiting for the start of that romantic movie or the big game and your screen goes black. You try the other channels praying it isn't so. They're all black. What to do?



First, call **Comcast at 1-888-COMCAST (1-888-226-2278)** or their local number 248-855-6971 to find out if the problem is solely at your home or whether it's an area outage.

If you are unhappy with your service, there is another avenue to channel your complaint. **Call the Birmingham Area Cable Board number at 248-336-9445.** The Cable Board has a part-time employee who handles complaints and hopefully can help resolve the issue.

The Cable Board has regulatory control over Cable TV only. However, they will try to assist with any internet related problems.

Winter Reminders (Cont. from Pg. 5)

Please remember, the snow that falls on private property should remain on your property.

When contracting for snow removal services, advise the contractor of the law. If the contractor is caught, a ticket will be issued. It's easy for the police to prove that the contractor did it. The contractor or the property owner can be ticketed and the minimum fine is \$100.

Contractors are catching on. The Village issued only a handful of notices of violation last year.

Our police take no pleasure in writing tickets to residents. Remember, the primary goal is to keep the streets safe for everyone.

LARGE ITEM PICK UP REGULATIONS

Date: Thursday, October 4, 2007

Time: All items at street by 7:00 a.m.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- * Large appliances, furniture and hot water heaters
(Refrigerators & freezers must have Freon removed prior to pick up)
- * Only small tree stumps
- * Brush and tree branches must be bundled and the length is not to exceed four feet
- * Rolls of carpet and linoleum must be tied together with the length not to exceed four feet
- * Disposal of construction materials is limited to one 32-gallon trash container



UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- * Large tree stumps
- * Hazardous waste
- * Tires
- * Automotive parts
- * Loose gravel
- * Large amounts of construction material & loose items



Car Trucking has the right to refuse to pick up excessive amounts of materials. If you have a large quantity of items, please call Car Trucking at 586-791-8480 and make special arrangements. Car Trucking has dumpsters that may be used by residents for a fee.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS! CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

This year the wait will be just a little longer for when we get that extra hour of sleep.

Fall Back this year won't be until November 4th. Before you go to bed on Saturday, November 3rd remember to set your clock back one hour and enjoy that extra hour of sleep. Eastern Standard Time begins at 2:00 a.m. November 4th. That means shorter days are coming.



While changing your clocks, remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Be proactive. It just takes a few minutes to make sure all your detectors are working. It might not just save your house, it may also save YOU.

NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES OFFER FUN ACTIVITIES

Birmingham

Oct. 21 1:00—5:00 p.m. 71st Annual Birmingham Pumpkin Patch & Halloween Parade at Shain Park - Little ghouls and goblins take part in the parade.

Nov. 21 6:00 p.m. Holiday Tree Lighting in Shain Park

Santa House Opens

Santa House is open weekends (Friday through Sunday) through Christmas.

Countdown to First Night Begins (contact the Community House for more details 248-644-5832)

Dec. 31 6:30 p.m. - midnight First Night sponsored by the Cultural Council 248-258-9075

Franklin

Dec. 1 - Holly Day

Home tours, choirs singing on the Green, tree & menorah lighting and carriage rides. Tickets may be purchased at any of the downtown merchants.

Bloomfield Township

Cider Mill - Franklin Rd. & Fourteen Mile

Open until November 25

Weekdays - 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Weekends - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 6th

**BIRMINGHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELECTIONS**

2 SEATS TO BE FILLED

**VOTE AT
BINGHAM FARMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Birmingham, MI
Permit No. 217

Village of Bingham Farms
24255 Thirteen Mile Road #190
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
(248) 644-0044
www.binghamfarms.org

The Bingham Farms Post is published quarterly by the Village of Bingham Farms.
Editor: Kathryn Haganan
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The next edition of the Post is scheduled for January, 2008. Deadline for submission of articles is December 14, 2007.
All articles must be submitted in writing to the Village office. The editing of articles is left to the sole discretion of the staff.
Website: www.binghamfarms.org