



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Fall, 2008

GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Now that the Democratic and Republican conventions have ended, it's time to get ready to cast your vote in the November elections. Election day is Tuesday, November 4. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Voters will cast their ballot for the following:

- U.S. President
- U.S. Senators and Representatives
- State Representatives
- University Boards
- County officials
- Oakland County Board of Commissioners
- Michigan Supreme Court Justices
- Circuit, Probate & District Court Judges
- Precinct delegates

The voting location for Bingham Farms registered voters is at Bingham Farms Elementary School, located across the street from Bingham Woods Condominiums. **The last day to register to vote in the November Election is October 6th.** New residents or voters can register at Southfield Twp. located at 18550 W. Thirteen Mile Rd.

LARGE ITEM PICK UP SET FOR OCTOBER 2nd

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 2, 2008. 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.

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) 873-1264.

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.

Continued on Page 2

SENIOR CITIZENS TARGETED

Since early September area police have reported five incidents where senior citizens were the target of armed robbers. The thefts occurred between 10 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. All the victims have been seniors driving late model, upscale vehicles. The robberies have occurred in Dearborn, Milford, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Commerce Twp.

In the Farmington incident, the victims had been at a social function. Although feeling they were being followed, the driver pulled into his driveway

and stopped at the bottom of the driveway. The car following them drove past their house. Feeling safe, they pulled into the garage, but before they could close the garage door they were confronted at gunpoint. In a couple of the other incidents, the victims reported they "felt" they were being followed.

While none of the incidents have occurred in the Village, every driver should remember if you feel you are being followed, avoid leading

the suspects to your home and don't pull into your driveway anytime you feel "unsafe".

1. If you think you are being followed, call 9-1-1. Stay on the phone and report your location and direction of travel. The dispatcher will start officers towards your location and give you further instructions.

2. If you do not have a cell phone or On-Star, drive to the nearest police station. Keep in mind that some smaller police departments such as Franklin-Bingham Farms

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WEST NILE VIRUS ARE WE WINNING THE BATTLE?

Although we're still in the height of mosquito-season, it looks like Michigan will be spared any onslaught of West Nile Virus. Through the beginning of September, only two human cases of West Nile Virus have been confirmed, one in Lenawee County and one in Wayne County. That is good news, especially considering the amount of precipitation that fell in late spring and early summer.



Last year there were just 3 cases confirmed. This was a marked decrease from 2006 when there were 55 cases reported.

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.

This does not mean that West Nile Virus is no longer a major problem. There are plenty of mosquitoes carrying the virus. Prevention measures do work. The best advice — keep doing what you are doing.

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 breed-

- ing 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 DEET to exposed skin or clothing. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for use. (Do not apply repellent containing DEET to children less than two years of age.)

If you find any dead birds, report your findings 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.

Large Item Pick Up (Cont. from Pg. 1)

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 as to the amount of items to pick up. 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. Page 7 has more details.

FALL BUG HUNT

The Friends of the Rouge have been exceptionally busy this year, what with River Day Clean Up in the spring and now the Fall Bug Hunt. The Bug Hunt will take place on Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Annual Bug Hunt is one method to assess the health of the Rouge River. The more critters found in the streambed equates to a healthier river.

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 macro invertebrates (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 monitoring@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 27 & 28
December 24-31
January 1**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Jane Bauer

Thank goodness that memorable summers like this last one come few and far between! The Detroit City Hall problems compounded by the Democratic and Republican conventions absorbed a lot of newsprint, radio and television time. The Elections will soon be over and we hope to settle back to normality. Everyone is welcome at our Village meetings. The chairs that we have in the meeting room are empty most of the time. Please come and keep us company.

Occasional theft in the commercial buildings on Telegraph and our villages continues. There is a correlation between the rise of crime and an economic downturn. Our Police force is our first line of defense. Our residents in our Neighborhood Watch are their first supporters, and you and I, on alert, are their auxiliary eyes and ears. Immediately call our Police when you see any suspicious activity in our village. Our police officers would rather investigate suspicious behavior than have you experience a break-in or a robbery. Please remember to wave hello to our Franklin-Bingham Policemen and Firemen. Be thankful for

their presence and their prompt response. They are great friends of ours.

Those spring rains looked like a precursor for a wet summer, but Nature surprised us again with a dry July and August. The leaves are starting to fall, and we are opening the windows to the cooler weather. We enjoy watching the maples and oaks become works of art. Take a walk. Meet and greet your neighbors, start some of the strenuous work around the house and yard and light up the fireplace for roasting hot dogs during the football games. Take a trip to the Franklin Cider Mill.

Since this is a quarterly newsletter, I want to encourage all of you to decorate your houses for Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza and the winter solstice. We can always use a little cheer during the darkest days of the year. Your President, Trustees and Professional Staff want to wish you the best in the holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

A Little Thing Can Be a BIG Help

From time to time, you may have wished you could help Bingham Farms Mobile Watch, and would except for time constraints. Well, you can help Mobile Watch and your police department with little effort and no expense. A phone call will do it.

If you don't have time to be a Mobile Watch member right now, at least you could carry a Bingham Farms decal in each of your vehicles. It doesn't say "Bingham Farms". In fact, there no letters or numerals at all. It is just a small 2 1/2 " square translucent decal, placed in your rear vehicle window that lets police and Mobile Watch know that your vehicle belongs in Bingham Farms. You can imagine the police runs this saves, time that otherwise would be spent checking out "suspicious" cars.

These decals are also a real time-saver for Bingham Farms Mobile Watch. They are small, innocuous, easy to install, and FREE. Just call anyone you know in Mobile Watch or Dick Holloway at 248.644.2622.

If you do have time for an occasional tour or would like to know more about it, we invite you to guest with us on the first Wednesday evening of each month at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse. No need to call ahead, just drop in.

Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

BURNING LEAVES IS ALLOWED IN THE VILLAGE

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.

POLICE BLOTTER

There have been two troubling incidents recently in nearby Franklin involving cars parked in the owner's driveway overnight. In one case, thieves broke a car window and stole a GPS system, an I-pod and a wallet. In the second case, they jacked the car up on large stones taken from the yard and stole all four wheels and tires.

If you keep a car in the driveway all night, be sure to lock it and don't leave valuables inside.

ABSENTEE BALLOT QUESTIONS

Who's eligible to receive an absentee ballot? What is the last date I can get an absentee ballot? How do I get an absentee ballot? These are very common questions that voters ask.

There are certain criteria that voters under age 60 must meet to obtain an absentee ballot. The major criteria is whether you will be out of town on election day. If you are, then call Southfield Twp. at 248-540-3420 and ask for an application. Once the filled out application is returned, the Clerk will send out an official ballot. Fill out the ballot and return it as soon as possible. Absentee Ballots received after November 4th will not be counted.

Voters over 60 years of age may be issued an absentee ballot upon request. Voters over 60 may also request to be placed on a Permanent Absentee List. Fill out the application below and send it to the Southfield Twp. Clerk.

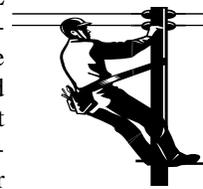
DTE "TREE POLICY" EXPLAINED

Remember the days when you could call DTE to have trees removed near electrical lines. And they even carted off the limbs and branches. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case.

DTE has instituted new policies regarding tree trimming and removal.

During their scheduled tree-trimming, DTE removes from customer property the small branches and debris that result from its tree trimming work. Larger trimmed branches are cut into firewood length and left behind for customer use or disposal. DTE will not remove diseased tree debris.

Debris caused by a sever storm also is not removed. In the aftermath of a storm, DTE crews work quickly to removed downed wire haz-



Continued on Pg. 5

STEPS FOR SAFE OUTDOOR BURNING

The Village allows the burning of leaves, twigs and small branches as a means of disposal during yard cleanup. Household refuse and construction materials **may not be burned.**



Another way to get rid of all those leaves this fall is to use them for compost. Compost can be the source of rich soil useful for gardening. Simply add leaves to the top of the pile and, eventually, dig the enriched soil from the bottom.

You can also mulch the leaves when mowing the lawn. Just leave them on the ground and they will disintegrate right into the soil.

If you find burning necessary, be careful.

- Pick a day with very little or no wind.
- Remain in attendance as long as the fire is burning.
- Of course, don't burn near residences or other buildings.
- Keep a safe area around the fire raked free of combustibles.
- Please burn only in the daytime.

Night fires can appear alarming and result in the arrival of some big, red fire vehicles at your home. Depending on the situation, the firefighters could elect to put your fire out, leaving you with a very wet pile of soggy leaves.

From the Franklin Bingham Farms Fire Dept.

REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON PERMANENT ABSENTEE VOTER APPLICATION LIST

I, the undersigned, request to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list so I will receive an **application** for an absentee ballot for any upcoming elections. (Mail or return to Southfield Twp. Clerk, 18550 W. 13 Mile Rd., Southfield Twp., MI 48025.)

DATE: _____

NAME: _____
Print Name

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 9-1-1
DISPATCH 248-626-5444
POLICE DEPT. 248-626-9672

DISPOSING OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

It didn't take long for residents to start using the SOCRRA facility on Coolidge Highway in Royal Oak. The Village's contract allows residents to drop off Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Equipment any time of the year.

According to the contract, the Village pays a flat fee of \$30 per car for most resident drop offs. If however, a resident brings in an "excessive" amount, an additional charge to the Village will be assessed.

SOCRRA determines whether the additional assessment is justified. If such an occasion arises, the Village will be notified. But for the most part, the Village should not incur additional costs.

Residents must call SOCRRA for an appointment in order to drop off

any items. Call 248.288.5153. The SOCRRA staff will ask a few questions about what type of material and what amounts.

Then just arrive at the scheduled time, drive up to the little building in the back and show proof of residency (driver's license will do). The staff will do the rest. They will remove all the items from your vehicle.

You will fill out a form and then be on your way. The whole experience should take less than an hour and that's door to door.

Should you have any questions, call SOCRRA at 248.288.5153 or visit their website at www.socrra.org. Remember the contract covers just household hazardous waste and electronics.

Seniors Targeted (from Pg. 1)

Police Department have police officers on duty 24 hours but they may not necessarily be in the police station.

3. Some of the area police departments nearby are Bloomfield Twp. at Telegraph & Long Lake Rd., Farmington Hills at Eleven Mile Rd. & Orchard Lake Rd. and Beverly Hills at Thirteen Mile Rd., just west of Southfield Rd.

4. If a police station is too far and you do not have a cell phone, pull into a busy, all-night restaurant or other well-occupied public place and call 9-1-1.

DTE (from Pg. 4)

ards and restore power to its customers.

The crews will cut broken and uprooted trees in order to reach locations that need repair. In these types of emergency situations, customers have the responsibility to take care of the debris.

DTE also says that customers are responsible for keeping tree branches away from their service drops, the lines that run from utility poles to their homes. They strongly recommend that the customer hire a professional tree-removal company to do this trimming.

For more information about line clearance log on to my.dteenergy.com/home/clearance.

A tree trimming schedule can also be found on this site.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

Whether we like it or not, winter is coming. That means having to deal with 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

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 27, 2008
November 24, 2008
December 22, 2008

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

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POLL WORKERS NEEDED

Ever think who those volunteers are helping with elections? They're all individuals who take the opportunity to give back to the community. In the process you make a little money, see your neighbors and be part of the democratic process.

The qualifications aren't difficult.

- Be a registered voter of Oakland County
- Be age 18, though some communities allow student poll workers age 16 and up
- Never been convicted of a felony
- Undergo training by city/township clerks

As far as duties are concerned—you'll check in voters and issue ballots. When the day is over, you close the polling location, fill out forms and return materials to the Clerk.



Poll workers do get paid. The daily rate is \$120. The hours are long - 6:00 a.m. - 8:30 or 9:00 p.m., but this is a great way to give back to your community.

If interested, call Southfield Twp. Clerk, Sharon Tischler, at 248-540-3420.

NEW APPLICATION FORM FOR VOLUNTEERS

Historically, the Village has rounded up volunteers either by word of mouth or asking for interested residents to send in a letter or a resume.

In an effort to standardize the process a new application form has been developed. The form will provide the Village with information that should facilitate the appointment process.

Normally, new appointments are made when a vacancy occurs on the Design Review Board or Planning Commission. When a vacancy does occur, applications in the Village file will be reviewed. Applications will be held for two years.

Applications are available at the Village office 248.644.0044 or log on to the website at

www.binghamfarms.org

Winter Reminders (Cont. from Pg. 5)

a potentially dangerous situation for cars and pedestrians. It also becomes more difficult for the Village snow contractor.

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.

After the fact however, the police can still prove that the contractor broke the law. In these cases, 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.

WHY ARE TV COMMERCIALS SO LOUD?

Why do I have to turn my volume down on the TV set when a commercial comes on? That's a good question with a complicated answer. A TV station will answer that "the commercials are no louder than any of the other programming broadcasted".



That's true. The station doesn't turn up the volume during commercials. Here's the difference. A TV program has a mix of audio levels - loud parts and soft parts used to generate dramatic effect.

Advertisers want to grab your attention. Their audio track is electronically processed to make every part of it as loud as possible within legal limits.

Spencer Critchley, writing in Digital Audio, explains it like this. "The peak levels of commercials are no higher than the peak levels of program content. But the average level is way, way higher, and that's the level your ears care about."

Help could come soon. Dolby Laboratories has developed technology to level out the sound differences. It's expected to come to market in about six months.

Until then, that "mute" button on the remote will still do the job.

**CAR TRUCKING WILL
PICK UP CHRISTMAS TREES
ON THURSDAYS THROUGH
JANUARY 9, 2009**

**THE TREES WILL BE
TAKEN TO A RECYCLING
FACILITY FOR
PROPER HANDLING**



**LOOKING FOR THE
LATEST VILLAGE
INFORMATION?**

**LOG ONTO THE VILLAGE
WEBSITE AT**

www.binghamfarms.org

LARGE ITEM PICK UP REGULATIONS

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2008

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

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS! CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

Spring forward and fall back. This time of year is when we can garner an extra hour of sleep.

Turn your clocks back one hour on November 2nd. Or as many do, turn them back before you go to bed on Saturday night. Eastern Standard Time begins at 2:00 a.m. November 2nd.



On the negative side, it means that shorter days are coming and that means another Michigan winter quickly follows.

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

Be proactive. Take 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 SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

Birmingham

Sundays thru 10/26/08 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Birmingham Farmers' Market - North Old Woodward

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. 26 6:00 p.m. Holiday Tree Lighting in Shain Park

Dec. 5, 12 & 19 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Magic of Birmingham

Birmingham Merchants give away hundreds of free gifts to random shoppers on the streets or in the stores.

Beverly Hills

January 25, 2009 - Winter Family Fun Day

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 30 Weekdays - 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Weekends - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 4th

GENERAL ELECTION

VOTE AT

BINGHAM FARMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Village of Bingham Farms
24255 Thirteen Mile Road #190
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
(748) 644-0044

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The Bingham Farms Post is published quarterly by the Village of Bingham Farms.

Editor: Kathryn Hagan
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The next edition of the Post is scheduled for January, 2009. Deadline for submission of articles is December 15, 2008.

All articles must be submitted in writing to the Village office. The editing of articles is left to the sole discretion of the staff.