



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Fall, 2009

VILLAGE ELECTION RESULTS

Thanks to the automatic mailing of Absentee Voter Applications to voters on the Permanent List, the 2009 Bi-Annual Village election had a larger turnout than usual. The Clerk's office mailed out 200 absentee ballots and 146 people returned the ballots to be counted in the September 15, 2009 Bi-Annual elections.

In total 211 voters (that's 23% of registered voters) participated in this election. The results were as follows:

President

David Leckie - 191

Trustees (4-year term)

Mel Ettenson - 158
Donald Ketai - 134
Rodger Kesley - 132
Jeffrey DuComb - 92

Trustee (2-year term)

Dorothy Warren - 185

No elections could occur without trained election inspectors to man the polling place. The Village is fortunate to have a group of residents who

Con't on. Pg. 6

LARGE ITEM PICK UP SET FOR OCTOBER 15th

It's here again. The Village's semi-annual large item pick up will take place on Thursday, October 15, 2009.

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.

All you have to do is bring the items to the street, right along with your regular trash. Car Trucking, will haul it away. And then it's gone...for good. Better yet, there are no extra charges.

The contractor also picks up freezers and refrigerators with doors and the Freon removed prior to placing them 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 888.872.7448.

4. The Salvation Army often takes 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 taken advantage of this service and had 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

Con't. on Pg. 2



SAVING "THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC"

The push continues to sign up 7,000 new subscribers to keep "The Birmingham Eccentric" a viable local newspaper.

To date, almost 2,000 new subscribers have signed up to receive the weekly paper and rack sales have increased by 100 each week. This is good progress, but more work needs to be done.

Last spring, the Gannett Company, owners of "The Eccentric" announced that the Birmingham edition would stop printing at the end of May due

to a declining subscriber base and advertising revenues.

With this announcement a few residents in the Birmingham area asked what could be done to save the 131 year old paper.

The answer was daunting. Expand the subscriber base by 7,000 and increase advertising.

Area residents, community organizers and municipalities joined forces to take up the challenge.

While the subscriber base has

not yet achieved its goal, the Gannett company has been impressed with the success achieved to date and continues to monitor the balance sheet.

This grass roots effort is being watched nationally. Local broadcast media has reported on this initiative, the Columbia Review had a major piece on this and the FCC has talked to David Bloom who is spearheading this effort. The FCC is looking into the overall viability of print media.

"The Eccentric" staff is working

Con't. on Pg. 5

WEST NILE VIRUS ARE WE WINNING THE BATTLE?

It appears that Oakland County is making progress in the battle of the West Nile Virus. But this year with the exceptionally wet summer, the mosquito crop seems to be bigger and more vicious than ever.

The months of September and October are historically the time when most human cases are reported. To date, none have been recorded in Oakland County. The incubation period from bite to symptoms ranges from 2 to 14 days.



Last year 17 human cases were confirmed in the State, however none in Oakland County.

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 and old tires.

- ♦ 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 on 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 websites at:

www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus

or

www.oakgov.com.

Large Item Pick Up Cont. from Pg. 1

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 the Thursday 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 if you have too much to be collected under this special program. While there is a charge, it may be a better way than to take the chance that your items will not be picked up.

If you have any questions, contact Car Trucking at 586.791.8480.

See Pg. 7 for more details.

THANK YOU BILL FREEMAN

After seventeen years serving the Village, Bill Freeman decided it was time for a break and did not seek another four year term.

Bill began his service in 1992 when he was appointed to the Planning Commission and worked on the Village Master Plan.

In 1998 a vacancy occurred on

Village Council and Bill was appointed to fill the seat. Over the years, Bill was responsible for various areas of government, sitting on the SOCWA



Board and overseeing the addition or amendments to Village ordinances. Bill offered a unique perspective in dealing with difficult issues and his ideas were instrumental in the decision making process.

As to his years of service to the community, Bill points to his background as a real estate attorney. Bill offered the following perspective: "Real estate is more than just a piece of land, it is a home, which is part of a neighborhood, which is part of a village, groups of people who interact to promote their common good. It has been an honor for me to serve the people of the Village, first as part of the Planning Commission and then on the Village Council. I have enjoyed my tenure, have made many new friends, and hopefully have provided the Village with the benefit of my knowledge and experience. I thank you for that opportunity.

Bill doesn't dismiss the possibility of coming back, but that's something to consider some time in the future.

The Village trustees and staff wish Bill all the best in the future and sincerely thank him for all his years of service.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

David M. Leckie

Greetings from the corner. Hope everyone had a great summer and now fall is here bringing Football, Cider Mills and the great fall colors our village is about to begin displaying.

A few reminders since the cooler weather is on its way. If you have a wood burning fireplace, don't forget to get the chimney swept. And if you still burn leaves, remember someone must be attending the fire until it is totally out. Douse the coals with water to make sure the fire is completely out.

I am enjoying a few of the perks associated with being Village President. In August I attended the tenth anniversary celebration for Arden Courts, the Alzheimer's Assisted Living Facility on Thirteen Mile Rd. Many of the residents and family members took part. Our State Senator Gilda Jacobs and Linda Lawther of MCAL joined me in celebrating this event.

I also have attended several meetings regarding the effort to save the Birmingham edition of "The Eccentric". This paper has been a relevant medium for local issues for too long to see it disappear.

The Village lost a valued

member of the Council when Bill Freeman decided not to run for re-election. It is with sadness that I see Bill leave but also with best wishes for his future endeavors. Bill has been a good and trusted Council Member since 1998. We will miss him.

The Village's Bi-Annual election is over. Two trustees were re-elected, Mel Ettenson and Rodger Kesley and we welcome newcomer, Dr. Donald Ketai. The turnout was better than expected, primarily driven by Absentee Voters. Thank you for showing support for our entire Council. They work hard keeping the Village a viable community, especially in these tough economic times.

I was pleased to see a couple of new village faces running for elected positions. If you're interested in getting your feet wet and would like to serve on the Planning Commission or Design Review Board, give the Village office a call and ask for a Volunteer Application. Openings do occur and it's much easier to fill open seats when there are candidate applications on file to consider.

EVEN IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

....our local merchants help us remember our police and fire department members. That was true again this year, as Bingham Farms Mobile Watch hosted its 17th Annual Pot Luck Picnic and Prize Drawing for our police and fire personnel.

In early August, on our regular meeting night, our members prepared and served a pot luck picnic meal, with ham and salads and all the accoutrements. Following dinner, the two department chiefs, Browne and Averbuch, drew names of their members present for prize awards. Our local merchants again "did us proud", with gifts of car washes to movie tickets to restaurant gift cards.

We won't have another picnic for a while, but we do socialize regularly – especially with a Holidayfest in December and a special event in spring. If you thought Mobile Watch only involved driving around the Village, think again and join us to meet the folks and learn more. We are at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. We would welcome you as a guest and you will be home by 9.

We may not have a picnic again soon, but we always have a current police report and we close with coffee and a sweet. Mobile Watch isn't just about driving through the Village.

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.

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 26, 2009
November 23, 2009
December 21, 2009

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

RECYCLING NOW EASIER THAN EVER

Contrary to many businesses, the recycling industry seems to be holding its own through this economic downturn.

More and more products are now recyclable. All plastic jugs and bottles are now accepted. It's no longer limited to narrow neck bottles. Those wide mouth margarine and yogurt containers can be placed in the recycling bin too.

Clear, blue & green glass bottles are now accepted. The glass recycling market has expanded to include wine bottles.

Other new materials to be recycled include shoe boxes and tissue paper. Containers such as milk, orange juice and ice cream cartons should be rinsed before putting them in the recycling bin.

More information is available by checking the village website found at

www.binghamfarms.org.

or log on to the SOCRRA website at

www.socrra.org.

As part of the Household Hazardous Waste Contract with SOCRRA, the Village's recycling is now brought to the SOCRRA site located in Royal Oak.

Specific questions about recycling should be directed to the Village's rubbish contractor, Car Trucking at 586.791.8480.



DISPOSING OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

More residents are taking advantage of year round disposal of household hazardous waste. Per an Agreement with South Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA), Village residents have access to their facility located on Coolidge in Royal Oak. It is located between Maple and Fourteen Mile Rd., across from Meijer's.

The facility accepts most household items that are considered hazardous, such as automotive products, batteries, pesticides and appliance and flashlight batteries.

Oil based paints are accepted. Latex paint is not considered a hazardous material and can be disposed of with the regular trash if it is in a dry state. To dry left-over latex paint, pour kitty litter into the can and let it seep up the liquid. Once this takes place, just place the open can on the side of your trash receptacles. The lid must be off to verify the paint is now a solid.

A complete list of acceptable materials may be found on SOCRRA's website: www.socrra.org.

When transporting hazardous materials to the facility, make sure the containers are tightly sealed to prevent accidental spills. This may require the use of a box or other container to hold the cans. Place the materials in the trunk of your car. All products must be clearly labeled.

Electronics, such as TVs (no consoles), computer monitors, CPUs, keyboards also are accepted. SOCRRA's website has a complete listing of acceptable electronics.

Appointments are required. To set up an appointment call SOCRRA at **248.288.5153**. A staff member will ask what type and amount of materials you will be dropping off and then will give you an appointment date and time.



ARDEN COURTS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

It doesn't seem that long ago that Arden Courts first opened its doors to care for residents suffering with mild to moderate Alzheimer's and other types of memory impairments.

A celebration was held on August 28 acknowledging its 10 years of service to the memory impaired. The event was attended by State Senator Gilda Jacobs, Village President David Leckie and Linda Lawther, President of the Michigan Center for Assisted Living (MCAL).

Arden Courts is now recognized at the third, and highest level of Quality Standard Seals. It is one of only nine homes in the State of Michigan receiving this accomplishment this year.



L-R Dave Leckie, Linda Lawther, State Senator Gilda Jacobs

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS "VIAL OF LIFE"

It may be just a small vial but the information it holds could save your life in an emergency.

The Fire Department has put together a kit that has 2 personal profile sheets, 2 display magnets and 3 program stickers. Fill out the profile sheets, fold them, place it in the vial and put it in your freezer (main kitchen). The vial should be easily visible when the freezer door is opened.

Place the magnet on your refrigerator door and place the sticker adjacent to the doors of your homes. Emergency personnel are trained to look for these stickers.

Call the Village office for more information. 248.644.0044.

POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

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

DTE - OUTAGE COMPLAINTS

What can be so hard? Why does Bingham Farms have so many power outages? These are the questions residents are asking DTE.

Since December 2008, there have been five power outages impacting the majority of residents and many businesses, including the Village office.

Due to the inordinate number of outages, many residents have installed gas generators for back up electricity to keep sump pumps, freezers and refrigerators going.

So what can be done to improve electrical service?

First, as soon as an outage occurs, call DTE at 800.477.4747. Call even if you know your neighbor has already done it. This lets DTE know how widespread the outage is.

It is not uncommon for DTE to say they were not aware of the extent of the outage because they didn't receive many calls. So it is important to call.

Follow this call with one to the

LIBRARY OFFERS PRE-EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS

In light of these tough economic times, the Baldwin library is offering several programs to help those seeking employment.

Kathie House, Oakland Community College, will present a Resume Workshop on October 20th from 1 to 4 p.m. Bring a flash drive to save your work.

A second workshop is on Interview Techniques and is scheduled for October 22 from 1 to 3 p.m.

A third workshop, "Social Media for Job Seekers: Are you On LinkedIn?" will be presented by Brenda Meller of Walsh College.

Registration is required for each workshop. To register, call

248.554.4650

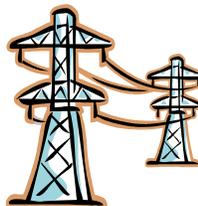
or go online to

www.baldwinlib.org.

Michigan Public Service Commission at 800.292.9555. This Commission has oversight over the utility companies and is the only entity that can hold DTE accountable.

Based on the complaints recently registered with the

MPSC by Village residents, DTE is adding additional sections to the power grid in our area to reduce the number of large area outages. This



means if there is an incident impacting one section, it should not impact the other sections. According to the MPSC this improvement was to be completed by mid September.

In addition to this, DTE is expected to start "line clearance" in 2010 as they say most outages are caused by downed trees. Watch for any notices.

DTE's contractors often radically chop off branches, so keep an eye on the workers when they are in your area. Some polite suggestions might minimize their cutting.

"The Eccentric" Cont. from Pg. 1

hard to improve the content and layout.

Those supporting the effort believe the local information found in this paper is essential to the community. "The Eccentric" not only covers local government, highlights school sports and student achievement but provides that home-town information such as new businesses in the area, social events and announcements.

If you're interested in becoming a subscriber just log on to the special website **www.savetheeccentric.com.**

The Sunday newspaper is also available in newspaper boxes at select locations throughout the Birmingham area.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

With winter quickly approaching and residents lining up their snow removal contractor, it's a good time for a few reminders to avoid plow problems this season.

The Village will continue its contract with Johnson Landscaping to provide snow removal services and salt applications.

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 plow and salt the roads is based on the assessment of the police department. Similar to last year, the Village will salt all the roads, when necessary, to make travel less challenging. However, this is

Michigan. Conditions can change in a matter of hours.



Salt becomes less effective when the temperature dips below 20 degrees so there will be times when it is just too cold for it to work. 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 by doing just that. This practice creates rows of snow across the road. That snow can freeze, creating potentially dangerous situations 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 re-

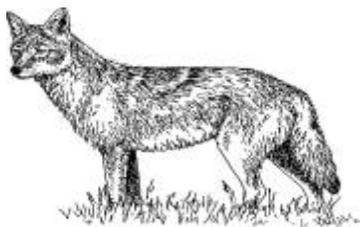
Cont. on Pg. 8

LIVING WITH COYOTES

Living with wild animals may be enjoyable for some, but for many it can be sheer terror. First is was the deer, which at worst can be considered an annoyance.

But the newest animal to be spotted are coyotes. They have adapted to every type of habitat and are found throughout the United States.

Coyotes are omnivores with rabbits topping their list. They also will eat berries, watermelons and other vegetative matter that is readily available.



Coyotes are opportunistic and go after easy prey. In suburban areas, that includes cats and small dogs. They are most active at night and early morning hours, but it is not uncommon to see them throughout the day.

Southfield Township, which handles animal control, researched methods to remove coyotes from the area. Basically, due to the numbers in the area,

it is almost impossible to reduce the population.

There was only one trapper up in Flint who would even consider trapping the coyotes. The only way to trap them is to use live bait, such as rabbits. The traps need to be checked daily to see if any were caught.

The cost was prohibitive - \$1,000 - \$2,500 per trap. The Township dropped the idea.

Shooting coyotes is not realistic because of the high population density. The risk of a stray bullet striking an adult or child cannot justify eradicating the coyote population.

It is strongly recommended that owners of small dogs remain outside when your dog is outside. All dogs should be on a leash, unless there is an electronic fence. However, the electronic dog fence is made to keep your animal contained. It does not stop the coyotes.

It is strongly recommended that small children be kept under strict supervision when playing outside, as it is possible that a coyote could see the child as another type of small animal.

If you encounter a coyote make a lot noise and normally they will take off.

CABLE CHOICES EXPAND FOR SOME

Consumer cries for more competition continues. To date, AT&T's U-Verse package is available in very select locations in Bingham Farms, primarily Bingham Woods Condominiums. When pressed for information regarding further rollout of the services, AT&T will not discuss their market expansion plans citing competitive concerns.

The only way to get a clue whether they are building their infrastructure in a neighborhood is when the big grey boxes appear.

Without AT&T service, con-

sumers have a choice between Comcast and satellite services.

If a subscriber has a problem with either AT&T or Comcast cable service, here are the numbers to call.

**Comcast - 800.COMCAST
800.266.2278**

AT&T - 800.727.2273

To register a complaint with the **Birmingham Area Cable Board** call

248.336.9445

KEEP POLLUTION OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS

Everyone contributes to pollution, many unaware that their actions impact the health of major waterways.

Water runoff that flows into storm drains and roadside ditches all goes to the nearest lake, stream, river or wetland without any kind of treatment.

Pollutants from sediment, nutrients, bacteria, pesticides and hazardous chemicals such as grease and oil eventually end up in a waterway.

Each small step taken around the home can have a significant impact on water quality.

- Never dump anything down a storm drain - recycle household hazardous wastes through the Village's association with SOCRRA.
- Sweep up excess fertilizer from hard, paved surfaces.
- Minimize soil erosion and sedimentation by minimizing disturbance to ground cover. Stabilize bare soil with seed and mulch.

For more info go online to

www.oakgov.com/riparian

Election Results (Cont. from Pg. 1)

have worked the polls for many years.

The hours were long, the pay not great, but their spirit and willingness to help in the democratic process was unwavering.

A special thanks to our election inspectors: Lois Hlavaty - Chair

Joe Hlavaty
Joanna Szajnar
Earl Wolfe



L-R Joe Hlavaty, Lois Hlavaty, Joanna Szajnar, Earl Wolfe

LARGE ITEM PICK UP REGULATIONS

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2009

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 placement at the street)
- 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



HOME INVASIONS ON THE RISE

From Chief Pat Browne

It's happening right in our backyards. During the summer the Village of Franklin experienced four night time home invasions. These home invasions occurred between 1 a.m. and 5:30 a.m.

The suspect would gain entry through unlocked doors or windows. Once inside he would take items such as laptop computers, cell phones, electric motor scooters and car keys. Upon leaving each of the houses, he would steal one of the vehicles in the driveway.

All of the stolen cars were eventually recovered and a suspect was arrested.

From our investigation we were able to learn that the suspect would walk through the neighborhood checking homes for unlocked doors. When he would find one, he would enter the house and look for small electronic items to steal. He would also check the kitchen counter for car keys. In each of the home invasions none of the victims were aware of what had occurred until they woke up in the morning and discovered that one of their cars was missing.



Night time home invasions are rare. The vast majority of home invasions occur during the daytime and usually between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

There are steps that you can take to lessen the chances of becoming a victim.

- Make sure you have quality locks on your doors and windows. Lock up your house whenever you leave, even if it's only going to be for a short time.
- Make sure that you lock your doors and windows (especially first floor windows) at night.
- If you have an alarm system make sure it's on.
- Have exterior security lighting.
- Make sure that trees or shrubs that are by doors or windows are trimmed back so they don't conceal the door or window.
- Have a dog.

If you would like further information on how you can make your house more secure and protect your valuables please contact us or stop in at the police station and pick up some of the handouts we have on home security.

Fire Department Volunteer Opportunities

From Chief Tony Averbuch

If you're an adult and looking to give something back to the community, the Franklin Bingham Volunteer Fire Department may be your answer.

Check out our website at www.fbfd.com and find information on what it takes to become a volunteer firefighter. There's an application package (including new member application, background release, and two medical forms), to be completed and submitted along with your current resume and copies of relevant certificates (if applicable).

Next, call Chief Averbuch at 248.626.9862 and set up an appointment to learn more about the department, what we seek in an applicant and what comes next. Please note that even though this interview may culminate in a volunteer position, treat it as if you are applying for any other job, as we take it very seriously.

It's quite a process and not everyone makes it through, but it is intended to make certain that when our neighbors need us, only the best respond. And there's no better satisfaction than knowing you have helped others.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors. A tradition since 1937

GET READY FOR MORE ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN 2010

With the 2009 road construction season winding down, here's advanced warning of major projects set for 2010.

The next Village road to be re-constructed is Fromm Ct. It will include a new base, new asphalt and some drainage ditch improvements where necessary. The project has already been designed and will be put out to bid in early spring 2010. The work will take place in the summer.

More information will be provided once the Village has selected a contractor and finalized a schedule.

MDOT has notified the Village

that major work will begin on Telegraph Rd. during the 2010 construction season. The work will impact Telegraph from 8 Mile to Quarton and will occur during nights and weekends (7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.) to minimize congestion.

The existing pavement will be patched and an asphalt overlay will be placed over the existing pavement.

Contractor incentives will be heavily used to facilitate completion of this project.

More to come.

Winter Maintenance Cont. from Pg. 5

removal services, advise the contractor of the law. If the contractor is caught, a ticket will be issued. Even after the fact police can still prove that the contractor broke the law. In these cases, the contractor or the property owner can be ticketed. 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,

REGISTER FOR THE PERMANENT ABSENTEE VOTER APPLICATION LIST

For the Village's September election, 200 ballots were sent to registered voters requesting absentee ballots. Almost 75% of those voters returned their ballots and were able to participate in the election process right from home.

The majority of voters on this list are over the age of 60 and find it difficult to get to the polls. When on this list, a voter is automatically sent an application for an absentee ballot for all elections (national, state and local).

To be placed on the list just fill out the form below, sign it and then send it to the Clerk at Southfield Township, where the list is maintained.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT

These days it's not uncommon to look for new revenue streams. And that goes for the Franklin Bingham Farms Volunteer Fire Dept.

Back in the spring, the Department was awarded a \$25,000 federal grant to purchase new turnout gear for the firefighters.

In September, the Department received a \$5,000 grant from the Fireman's Fund. This grant was used to purchase two additional sets of turnout gear. That's right, each set costs \$2,500.

Congratulations to Chief Tony Averbuch for his winning grant applications.



RULES EVERY RESIDENT SHOULD KNOW

Contractor Signs are not allowed. This includes building contractors, driveway contractors, window companies, etc. The Franklin Bingham Police Dept. will remove them.

Political Signs are allowed, but limited to one sign per candidate. Signs must be removed within 5 days of the election or event.

Solicitors must be registered with the Village office. If you have a "No Solicitation" sign affixed to your entry way, they are not allowed to approach you.

Tree & Woodland Protection Ordinance was enacted to prevent clear cutting of wooded parcels of property or excess removal of healthy trees. See Chapter 93 of the Village Code.

Driveway Permits are required for driveway reconstruction or sealcoating. The cost is \$25.00.

Building Permits are needed for major renovations as well as electrical and plumbing work and re-roofing. Some projects require Village approval before securing a permit. Call the Village office early on to keep the project on track.

Emergency Notification List - Want to be notified of important situations such as water main breaks, boil water notices or police reports on break-ins etc.?

Email the Village at info@binghamfarms.org and request to be placed on the list.

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: _____

LOOKING FOR THE LATEST VILLAGE INFORMATION?

LOG ONTO THE VILLAGE WEBSITE AT www.binghamfarms.org

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 1st. 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 1st.



Unfortunately, it also means that shorter days are coming and another Michigan winter is not far away.

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.

THE VILLAGE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

November 26 & 27
December 24-31
January 1

NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES OFFER SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

Birmingham

Farmers' Market - North Old Woodward

Sundays thru 10/25 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

72nd Annual Birmingham Pumpkin Patch & Halloween Parade

Oct. 21 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Booth Park

Little ghouls and goblins take part in the parade.

Holiday Tree Lighting in Shain Park

Nov. 25 6:00 p.m.

Magic of Birmingham

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

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

Franklin

Holly Day

Dec. 1 -

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.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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

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