



# THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Fall, 2010

## TELEGRAPH ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As former Yankee Manager Yogi Berra once said, "it's not over til it's over". This certainly applies to the ongoing construction on Telegraph Rd.

The ten mile long project that MDOT began in the Spring was scheduled to all be completed in one construction season, which would be by December. Restoration was scheduled to begin in spring 2011.

The good news is that the majority of the construction will be completed, that's both north and southbound lanes. Of course, this all depends on the weather cooperating.

There is one exception however. The northbound lanes between 12 1/2 mile to Maple Rd. **WILL NOT** be finished. A major problem arose involving Franklin's pressure sewers which stalled progress for several months. According to MDOT, the plans have been redesigned and work is proceeding in that area once again.

So, the orange barrels will be back in the spring not only for finishing the concrete pavement but also for restoration of the medians. The restoration involves new planting beds, replacement trees and planting grass.

Many residents have been ask-

ing about all the trees that were removed from the medians at the start of the project. MDOT will be planting new trees to replace the trees that were removed, including the more than 70 trees lost in the Village.

The Village will be submitting plans to MDOT regarding placement the number and placement of the trees.

And the grow zone planting beds installed just last year will also be restored.

So the winter months will give a needed reprieve from the lane closures, heavy traffic and delays. But come spring, it begins all over again.

Check out the Village website at [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org) for construction updates.

In the meantime, patience is the only way to survive this massive project.

Just keep thinking about the smooth ride that will greet drivers when this project is over.



## NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Mark your calendars - the General election takes place on Tuesday, November 2, 2010.

Voters will decide on candidates from all areas including Governor, State Senator and Representative, State Board Members and judicial positions.

There are two proposals on the ballot. The first is a proposal to convene a Constitutional Convention to draft a general revision of the State Constitution. The second is a proposal to amend the State Constitution to prohibit certain felons from holding elective office and certain types of public employment positions.

Bingham Farms voters will cast their ballots at Bingham Farms Elementary School located at 23400 W. 13 Mile Rd. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Southfield Twp. is handling this election. Voters wishing to receive an absentee ballot by mail must submit an application to Southfield Township offices by October 30th.

A sample of the ballot may be viewed on the Village website at [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org).

Any questions, call Southfield Township at 248.540.3420.

## LARGE ITEM PICK UP SET FOR OCTOBER 14th

It's here again. The Village's semi-annual large item pick up will take place on Thursday, October 14, 2010.

The purpose of this pick up is to give residents the opportunity to dispose of large items such as 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. Then it's gone...for good. Better yet, there are no extra charges.

The contractor also picks up freezers and refrigerators if doors and the Freon are 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, including:

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).

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. Car Trucking has sole discretion as to the quantity they will pick up. It may be best to have a dumpster

Con't. on Pg. 2

## WEST NILE VIRUS ARE WE WINNING THE BATTLE?

Residents of Oakland County continue to effectively battle the West Nile Virus. With the exceptionally wet weather earlier this summer bolstering the mosquito crop, hopefully the precautions will limit human infections.

So far this year four human cases have been reported, two in Macomb County, one in Washtenaw and one in Wayne. Last year 17 human cases were confirmed in the State, however none in Oakland County.



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.

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 breeding 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](http://www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus)

or

[www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com).

## FALL IS GREAT TIME FOR EARTH-FRIENDLY FERTILIZING

Getting ready for the final fertilizing of your lawn? Ever wonder what type of fertilizer your lawn company uses?

In an effort to cut down excess use and pollutants into our rivers, homeowners are encouraged to use earth friendly fertilizers which are sold by many area merchants. These fertilizers have low phosphorous or no phosphorus and slow release oxygen.



Or try something new this year. Mulch your leaves instead of bagging them. The mulch can improve soil, increase nutrient levels and reduce weeds.

It's easy and free. Just run the lawn mower over the leaves and let them naturally bore into the soil.

If you do bag your leaves, put them into brown paper bags that you may purchase at any local hardware or garden store. Brown bags are biodegradable.

**DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS!** They are not biodegradable.

Compost pick up continues up to mid-November.

### Cont. from Pg. 1 Large Item Pick Up

delivered to your home if you have too much to be collected under this special program. While there is a charge, you know it will all be taken away and it gives you more time to gather up all that needs to go.

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

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 the Thursday pick up.

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

### BE IN THE KNOW!

### SIGN UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT EMAILS FROM THE VILLAGE

*Send an email to [info@binghamfarms.org](mailto:info@binghamfarms.org)  
and request to be placed on the email list.*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

David M. Leckie

Greetings from the corner. Well there appears to be a chill in the air, signaling fall is coming. Yes mums and pumpkins are starting to show up at Village homes. And kids are beginning a new school year, so keep an eye out for the kids and school buses.

If you are like me it's become a real guessing game as to when the garbage truck will show up. With all the construction going on around us, the rubbish contractor has the flexibility to change routes at any time. So to make sure your rubbish is picked up, please make sure you have your trash out by 7:00am and if you want you may put your trash out the night before after 7:00pm. If you chose this option, please make sure your trash has a tight lid on it.

The November elections are quickly coming up. Did you know that Bingham Farms residents have one of the highest percentages for participation in elections? In the August primaries, 46% of residents voted. That is the largest percentage compared to Beverly

Hills and Franklin. That says a lot about our community.

Let's hope we get all these voters back at the polls in November.

The Village Planning Commission held a first ever Business Roundtable where office building owners, leasing agents, developers and tenants were invited to share views of how to make the Telegraph Rd. business corridor more viable and attractive.

Very valuable concepts were collected at this roundtable. The Planning Commission will be working on ways to implement some of those ideas.

The business district makes up more than 40% of our tax revenues. They are instrumental in maintaining the quality of life in the Village. It's important especially in this economy to form a partnership to provide the proper economic and aesthetic environment which benefits everyone.

That being said, sit back and enjoy the magnificent color splendor our Village is about to display. Have a safe and enjoyable fall.

## Not Much Fun?

To non-members of Mobile Watch, it probably sounds like a lot of work, with few results. Members, one presumes, drive the entire Village practically every day, and rarely see anything worth reporting. It doesn't sound like much fun.

The truth is that Bingham Farms Mobile Watch is a very interesting social group, contributing to the safety of the Village, and enjoying the fellowship and planned activities the organization provides. Most members tour the Village once or twice a month, and there are deluxe car wash prizes for those who tour the most. (And rarely seeing anything amiss is a good thing.) Meetings are short and monthly, mostly to hear a current police report, delivered by Officer David Dwyer and Chief Patrick Browne (we hear things you don't read in the paper).

The "planned activities" are interspersed throughout the year, including a Holidayfest in December, a special event (usually with speaker) in the spring, and our highlight event, a member-pot-luck picnic in August, honoring (with prizes) the members of our police and fire departments.

We just hosted our 18<sup>th</sup> annual picnic, well-attended, well-fed, and enjoyed by all. We served about 45 people, with everything from ham and potato salad to ice cream on a stick.

Various sponsors provided the prizes.

So if you think being a member is a drudgery, think again. We do this because we want to make a contribution to our community and because we enjoy it. You can too, with little effort. Why not guest with us on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 pm at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse on River Crossing? You will hear a current police report, have coffee and a sweet, and be home by 9:00 p.m.

With questions or for more information, call Dick Holloway at 248.644.2622.

Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

### VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 25, 2010  
November 22, 2010  
December 20, 2010

Meetings begin at **8:00** p.m.

### 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.

## LATEX PAINT IS NOT HAZARDOUS WASTE

It sure is easier to just take all that latex paint, pop it in your trunk and take it to SOCRRA for disposal. However, the contract the Village has with SOCRRA is for disposal of hazardous waste. Latex paint IS NOT considered hazardous.

The Village is charged no matter what a resident drops off.

There are several ways to easily discard latex paint at no cost.

**Natural Drying** - With paint cans that are less than a quarter full, simply remove the lid and place the can in a well-ventilated area. The remaining paint should be dry within a few days. Once dry, it can be placed in the trash or chip out the paint directly into the trash and put the empty paint can in the recycling bin.

**For paint cans that are more than a quarter full, here are a few options:**

**Kitty litter** - This common, household absorbent works well in removing the moisture from latex paint. How much kitty litter to add depends on the makeup and age of the latex paint. In most cases, start with a cup or two and add as needed. Stir thoroughly and after a short time, the paint will thicken. Dispose of the hardened material in the trash and recycle the empty paint cans.



**Saw Dust, Mulch, Small Animal Bedding, & Sand** - These are other common absorbents that can be used to thicken and solidify latex paint. Use them the same way you would use kitty litter. Remember to recycle empty paint cans *and lids* after disposing of the hardened paint.

More information is available by visiting the SOCRRA website at

[www.socrra.org](http://www.socrra.org)

Also local high school theatre departments welcome paint donations to be used for their productions.

## 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 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.

A complete list of acceptable materials may be found on SOCRRA's website: [www.socrra.org](http://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 and 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 that works for you.



### THE COYOTE POPULATION IS GROWING

Don't leave food out.

Monitor your small animals when outside.

Keep a keen eye on small children playing outside.

## ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

More than a year ago, the Village offered to its residents the opportunity to sign up for email notifications that impact them. Many signed up, but there is still time to enroll.

Here's just a few of the alerts that were sent out.

- Updates on Telegraph Rd. construction—what lanes will be closed, what entrances and exits will be closed.
- Changes in rubbish pick up
- Crime alerts—from our police department

It's easy to sign up. Just send an email requesting to be put on the "notification list". Send it to [info@binghamfarms.org](mailto:info@binghamfarms.org) and get in the know.

This list is kept totally confidential. No one else on the mailing list will have access to your email address.

Be in-the-know and sign up today. Any questions, call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

## OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

Oakland County has instituted a new program called Operation Medicine Cabinet. It's an easy way for residents to properly dispose of old prescriptions.

Residents can just take their old prescriptions to a nearby participating police department. The police department will log it in properly dispose of the medications.

The nearest participating location is the Village of Beverly Hills Public Safety Dept. located at 18600 Thirteen Mile Road.

Place medication in a Ziploc bag. Properly disposing of the medication prevents unlawful use. There is no charge.



## HELP STOP DUMPING IN THE VILLAGE

Bingham Farms is like many other municipalities feeling the pinch of reduced state revenue sharing payments combined with falling property values. The Fiscal Year Budget 2010-2011 is tight without much room for extras.

There are actually some areas where Village residents can help out, especially in the areas of roadside maintenance.

Periodically, there are contractors as well as residents who believe the natural areas along Village roads are perfect places to dump lawn clippings, trees and limbs. Out of sight, out of mind.



However, this practice is not fair to the property owners whose site is being used as a dumping ground. The accumulation of these materials devalue their property. And if these areas are in the public right of way, there are times when the Village has to pick up the expense of removing the debris. That means tax dollars are used to clean up

after other people.

Any resident who sees someone "dumping" along Village roads, should call the police immediately. If the offender is caught, he will pay a hefty penalty and be forced to remove the debris, which also include any older debris. If the Village can trace back the debris to work done within the Village, the property owner will face appropriate fines.



There are several lawful ways to dispose of unwanted material.

- \* Open burning of leaves and small branches is allowed in the Village.
- \* Car Trucking, the Village rubbish collector will take small tree trunks and branches (cut to 4' lengths and tied) for no charge.
- \* Hire a junk hauling company that will come to your home and remove the tree limbs for a fee.



## Oakland County Happenings

When's the last time you've used any of the Oakland County Parks? Bet it's been awhile.

If you're looking for some fun things to do, check out the County Parks offerings.

There's plenty of golf available at all five of the County's golf courses: White Oaks, Lyon Oaks, (Lyon Township) Glenn Oaks (Farmington Hills), Springfield Oaks (Davisburg) and Red Oaks (Madison Heights).



And this winter, there's plenty to do outdoors. If you're into cross-country skiing or snowshoeing and have your own equipment, check out the trails at Glen Oaks, Springfield Oaks and White Lake Oaks. These trails are not groomed.

Otherwise, Independence Oaks offers 10 miles of groomed and marked trails and they have rental equipment available. Lessons are available too.



Even Fido can now venture to a new Dog Park at Red Oaks. He can look forward to a five-acre site with three fence enclosed areas (one set aside for the smaller breeds).



There's so much to do at the County Parks no matter what season it is. Check it all out by logging on to the Parks & Rec website at

[www.destinationoakland.com](http://www.destinationoakland.com)

## WINTER MAINTENANCE

One of the major problems the Village faces each year is with snow removal, especially residents and/or their contractors who plow snow from the driveway across the street. What remains are called snow rows.

These snow rows can freeze and can cause problems with the Village's snow plow contractor, pedestrians and public safety vehicles.

This procedure is against not only Village ordinance but also state law.

It is important that residents inform their private snow removal contractors that the snow that falls on your property stays on your property.

Last year there was super compliance. The Village only sent out a handful of reminders. Ticketing can occur for non-compliance, but that's the last thing the Village wants to do.

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



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

The snow plows are called out as soon as 2 inches have 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.

**Check out the Village website**

**[www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org)**

## ***RULES FOR POLITICAL SIGNS***

It looks like it's going to be a heated election season coming up to the November elections.

Just a few reminders regarding political signs.

In residential areas:

- \* Residents may display one sign per candidate running for office.
- \* Signs are not to exceed three square feet in area.
- \* No signs in the right of way.
- \* Sign must be removed within five calendar days after election
- \* Must have permission of the property owner.



The following rules apply for the office district :

- \* Individual signs shall not exceed overall dimension of 3-feet by 4-feet.
- \* No signs in the right of way.
- \* Signs must be removed within five calendar days after election.
- \* Candidates must have permission of the property owner .

## ***RUBBISH COLLECTION RULES***

What creatures of habit are we. We know what time the mail man comes, what time our rubbish is collected.

Well, that rubbish schedule came abruptly to a halt when, due to the massive amount of road construction, Car Trucking changed the routes in order to make sure their drivers were able to get to their disposal site before they closed. This is solely their call.

The Village has always guaranteed pick up if the materials are at the street by 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning. Another option is to put it out the night before, making sure the lid is on tight to keep the critters from surfing your gar-

## ***USE YOUR LIBRARY CARD FOR MERCHANT DISCOUNTS***

The Baldwin Public Library has again launched its "Check It Out" campaign for a second year. This community initiative was developed to get the 1,000 daily library-goers to buy local from 21 participating retailers in Birmingham and Beverly Hills. Shoppers simply have to show their Baldwin Public Library card to participating retailers to get discounts and special offers ranging from 20 percent off purchases to free gift wrapping. The Check It Out program runs now through January 2, 2011.



"The Baldwin Public Library believes in our community and we want Check It Out to encourage our patrons to buy local from the incredible mix of retailers we have in the area," said Matt Church, Associate Director at Baldwin Public Library. "Keeping dollars in our community and introducing a new audience to our local merchants should have a very positive impact for all involved."

For the latest special discounts and Check It Out offers using you Baldwin Public Library card, visit [www.baldwinlib.org/checkitout](http://www.baldwinlib.org/checkitout).

bage cans.

It is not possible for Car to make repeat trips through the Village collecting rubbish that was put out late. They operate in many other communities, so delays in Bingham Farms will impact garbage removal in other communities.

The Village would incur additional cost for repeat trips and this cost would be paid by all the taxpayers in Bingham Farms. This is not an option.

The best recommendation is to have your garbage at the street by 7:00 a.m., no matter where in the Village you reside.

## ***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.

**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.

**LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL WITH REGULAR RUBBISH PICK UP THROUGH JANUARY 13th**

**LOOKING FOR THE LATEST VILLAGE INFORMATION?**

**VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE AT [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org)**

# **LARGE ITEM PICK UP REGULATIONS**

**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2010

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

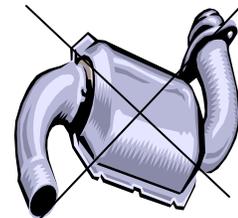
## **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

- 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 should not 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



**Large items such as appliances and furniture may be placed at the street the weekend before the pick up.**

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 to rent a dumpster.

## 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 7th. 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 7th.



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.

## 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.

### 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.

### FIRE & POLICE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	9-1-1
DISPATCH	248-626-5444
POLICE DEPT.	248-626-9672
FIRE DEPT.	248-626-9862

### MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**Bingham Farms - November 25 & 26  
- December 24 - January 3**

**Southfield Twp. - November 25 & 26  
- December 24 -28  
- December 31- January 3**

**Both offices reopen January 4, 2011.**

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

Editor: Kathryn Hagaman  
clerk@binghamfarms.org

The next edition of the Post is scheduled for January, 2011. Deadline for submission of articles is December 15, 2010.

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](http://www.binghamfarms.org)