



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Spring, 2008

THREE OFFICERS PROMOTED & OTHERS RECEIVE AWARDS

A reorganization of the Franklin Bingham Farms Police Department created the opportunity to promote three long-time officers. More than 100 people attended the promotion and awards ceremony held in February.

Det. Sgt. Bill Castro has been promoted to Lieutenant. Officers Brian Crane and Jim Hirschfeld have been promoted to Sergeant.



L-R Sgt. Hirschfeld, Lt. Castro, Sgt. Crane

Lt. William Castro has been a police officer for almost 23 years and joined the Franklin/Bingham Farms Police Dept. back in 1988. He has been the department's primary investigator since 1989. He has an incredible record of solving most burglaries. Lt. Castro holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and graduated from Northwestern Uni-

versity's School of Police Staff and Command last year.

Sgt. Brian Crane has served as a police officer with the department for almost 23 years. He began as a reserve police officer in 1982 and became a full time officer in 1985. Sgt. Crane has earned over 25 awards during his police career for his exceptional police work. Sgt. Crane holds an Associate Degree in Law Enforcement and has attended Northwestern University's Supervision of Police Personnel management training school.

Sgt. Jim Hirschfeld began his law enforcement career in 1986 and joined the Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department in 1988. He has served as the department's Field Training Officer, team leader of the Mounted Patrol Unit and the liaison officer for the Special Assessment District. During his career, he has received over 20 awards for exceptional police work. One of his life saving awards was for entering a burning condo to rescue an elderly disabled resident.

Sgt. Hirschfeld holds a

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LARGE-ITEM PICK UP SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 12TH

Tired of storing that old sofa in the basement, or some of those long-forgotten "treasures" in the attic?

Help is on the way. The Village's semi-annual Large Item Free Pick Up is set for Thursday, June 12th. Residents are asked to have their items at the street by 7:00 a.m. Car Trucking brings in an extra truck to handle the extra load.

The really large items, such as water heaters and sofas, may be placed at the street the weekend before.

There are limitations as to how

much and what may be picked up. Refrigerators and freezers must have the "Freon" and doors removed before throwing them out.

In the past, some residents considered this a time to clean out the entire house. Car Trucking has the authority to decide when too much is just too much. If you have any questions, call them at **586-791-8480**.

See Pg. 7 for more details.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Mark your calendars. Saturday, June 7 is the date for the Village's Annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off. This program was started more than a decade ago to help residents properly dispose of items that are harmful to the environment.

Residents are not charged for this program as the project is funded through the General Fund, utilizing tax dollars collected.



The drop off is a simple process.

Place the items in boxes and put them in your car.

Drive over to the Jamestowne South parking lot and look for the big white truck in the back of the lot.

Show proof of residency, either a driver's license or car registration.

Employees of EQ Liquids will do all the rest. They will unload the boxes, separate the items and place them in the appropriate bins.

You never have to get out of your car.

A few other notes. Residents may dispose of computer equipment (hard drives, monitors, keyboards). It is highly recommended that the hard drives be wiped clean.

Medical waste, such as needles

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VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2008

April 28

May 27

June 23

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

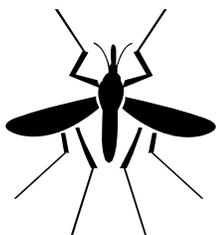
GEAR UP TO FIGHT THE WEST NILE VIRUS THIS SPRING

According to the calendar, spring is here and couldn't come soon enough after the cold, snowy winter.

With that comes the familiar reminder about the West Nile Virus. It is still very much a menace. It is still necessary to take the proper precautions to avoid contacting the bug. The virus is spread to humans when bitten by a mosquito that carries the virus.

Last year, thirteen human cases were reported state wide. Only two cases were in Oakland County.

The Oakland County Health Department believes that the low numbers of human infection are directly related to the prevention methods residents are taking. The best advice — keep doing what you are doing.



- ♦ 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 windows and

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 on children less than two years of age.)

If you find dead birds, report your finding to the Oakland County Health Division Hotline at 1-877-377-3641. Then, properly dispose of the bird and 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.

TIPS FOR A SAFE GRADUATION SEASON

Graduation season is fast approaching. High school seniors are thrilled reaching this milestone and are ready to party. Senior Prom is just around the corner.

A word of caution to parents. If you intend to throw a party, remember the legal drinking age is 21, NOT 18. And there are some municipalities that have tightened up their zero tolerance when it comes to underage drinking. Not only can kids get into legal trouble, so

can parents.

Surveys of Birmingham area students show a greater tendency to drink, smoke and use drugs than the nationwide average.

While it's a great idea to throw parties, make it safe for everyone.



WILDLIFE HABITAT GROWING

Residents in Bingham Farms love the natural terrain, but so do some very unwanted wildlife. Coyotes have joined the deer and fox population and are causing great concern.

While these animals have become accustomed to sharing the land with humans, humans are not quite sure how to handle the coyotes.



Coyotes are opportunists, both as hunters and scavengers. They eat any small animal they can capture, including mice, rabbits and squirrels. They will dig for moles and gophers. Grass, fruits and berries are part of their diet in summer and fall.

Besides wild prey, coyotes aren't very particular in what they'll eat, including pet food or garbage left outside, garden crops and small pets.

Coyotes may become very territorial and will become aggressive if someone or something approaches its den. They are very protective of their young.

Given this scenario, how do humans protect themselves and their domesticated animals?

Never instigate a close encounter with the coyote.

If a coyote ever approaches too closely, act aggressively toward the animal, waving arms or shouting.

Don't leave small children unattended where coyotes are frequently seen or heard.

Never feed coyotes. Coyotes fed by people often lose their fear of humans and develop a territorial attitude that may lead to aggressive behavior.

Don't give coyotes access to garbage. Keep garbage can lids on tight or store in a shed or garage.

Prevent access to fruit. Keep fruit trees fenced, or pick up fruit that falls to the ground.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Jane Bauer

After the harsh winter and the record snowfall, we welcome the signs of spring. The grackles are back and the squirrels are chasing each other all over the deck and through the trees. More of us are taking afternoon and evening walks. Please remember to wear light colored clothing or reflective arm bands when visibility is poor. While pedestrians have the right of way, give drivers a break and stay close to the edge of the road. Be especially alert on the hills as it can get tricky especially when two vehicles and a person are occupying the same slope.

You are probably reading about the interest of some residents of Beverly Hills in becoming a city. The papers have even mentioned the possibility of combining Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin. In our opinion, there is no advantage in losing our identity or becoming a city. Although we have suffered from the funding cuts by state and county governments, we anticipate negligible cost benefit or easing of taxes. Combining

services as we have done with Franklin, for Police and Fire Protection and with Beverly Hills for public works has been a greater financial benefit for all.

There has been a lot of talk about the greenhouse effect caused by excess carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Why not help by planting some trees, vegetables, and a lot of flowers. Plants significantly reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by using the carbon to make stems, leaves, flowers and fruit. They then release oxygen back into the atmosphere, benefiting everyone. It is also time to start spring yard cleaning and repairing board and split rail fences. Watch for litterbug debris tossed on your property. Compliment your neighbors for good landscaping.

We are always looking for volunteers for commissions and advisory boards. If you can help, send a short resume indicating areas of interest to our Village Office. You may not be called to serve immediately, but your availability is important to us.

Time to Celebrate!

Indeed, it is time for Bingham Farms Mobile Watch to celebrate. Not only did this group set a new record for Village tours taken in 2007, up 6% from the prior year, but it now looks forward to its 25th anniversary. Based on a recommendation from then-Police Chief Ed Glomb, Bingham Farms Mobile Watch first met in May, 1983, and has been meeting and touring ever since.

So a celebration is planned for this May 7, in the month that the Village Council recently proclaimed as "Mobile Watch Month in Bingham Farms". That first Wednesday is our regular meeting night, but this will be anything but regular. We will toast the occasion, enjoy a special after-meeting treat with coffee, meet some special people, and hear a detailed police report on activity in our area.

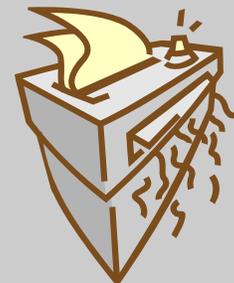
More importantly, you are invited to attend, with no cost and no obligation! You will have a chance to meet the members of your Village Council, the current members of Bingham Farms Mobile Watch, Police Chief Pat Browne, and another as-yet-unannounced special guest. If you have any interest in mobile watch or would just like to know what it does, you should join us at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:30 pm. Even though this is a special event, you will still be home by 9.

We hope you can be with us.

Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

**FREE SHREDDING
HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENTS
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008
10:00 A.M. - NOON
SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP PARKING LOT
18550 W. 13 MILE RD.**

**Will accept five or six storage boxes
Questions: Call 248-540-3420**



NEW PROCEDURE TO BE PLACED ON PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST

New state law has changed the way voters may receive absentee ballot applications. Gone is the phone call to ask to be placed on a permanent list. Now voters (over the age of 60) must request **in writing** that they be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voter Application List. This list allows the Clerk to automatically send out Absentee Ballot Applications for each election.

Either write a letter or fill in the application below and return it to Clerk, Southfield Twp. 18550 Thirteen Mile Rd., Southfield Twp., MI 48025. The office is located just west of Southfield Road.

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: _____

UNDERSTANDING TEXTING LINGO

Have you watched the typing dexterity of young cell phone users? Seems they can whip off a message in no time flat.

For those less experienced, here is a list of the more commonly used jargon.

lol - laugh out loud

brb - be right back

g2g - got to go

pos - parent over shoulder

btw - by the way
hand - have a nice day

cu - see you

ugh - grunt
Ex. my mom wants me ugh

POLICE & FIRE PHONE NUMBERS

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

RIPARIAN OWNER WORKSHOP

Throughout the years, residents who live near a water course have asked for information relative to the proper care of the riverbed.

Bingham Farms has been working with the Village of Franklin, the Friends of the Rouge and other organizations to develop a workshop that would answer many questions for riparian landowners.

The workshop will cover topics such as streambank erosion, fertilizing, buffer zones and more. Experts in the field will offer tips on best practices to protect the waterway. There will be a question and answer period at the end of the presentations.

A specific date has not been set but it looks as if the workshop will take place in mid-June. The tentative place is the Franklin Community Church in Franklin. The workshop will be open to all Village residents. There is no cost for this program.

Updates will be provided on the Village website at

www.binghamfarms.org.

WIRELESS OAK-LAND HITS A SNAG

It was first announced with great fanfare - Oakland County to have free wireless access. Now that big dream has hit a snag. MichTel, the private contractor spearheading the project, has unfortunately run out of financing. They are looking for new investors so the project can be completed. The sagging Michigan economy is adding to the challenge. Approximately \$75 million is necessary to complete the countywide build out.

The project is now on hold. However, the system is working in the pilot areas which have 19,000 users on the network.

No word when the project will start up again.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Jamestowne South
24255 Thirteen Mile Road

Dispose of your Household Hazardous Wastes at the annual Bingham Farms Hazardous Waste Disposal Day.

The vast majority of household hazardous wastes are accepted.

These materials should not go into landfills (and they will, if thrown away with the regular trash) or be washed down the drains.

Your participation will ensure the hazardous wastes will be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

Have material to dispose of but won't be in town? Ask a neighbor to drop it off for you.

NONACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- * Smoke Detectors (they contain radioactive material)
- * Radioactive material
- * Compressed gas cylinders
- * Explosives
- * Shock sensitive materials

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

GARDEN

- Bug sprays, sticks & creams
- Ant & roach powder
- Garden dusts & sprays
- Weed killer
- Fly strips
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Rat poison

KITCHEN/BATHROOM

- Floor care products
- Nail polish
- Furniture polishes
- Oven cleaners
- Scouring powders
- Spot & stain removers
- Chlorine bleach
- Toilet cleaners
- Grout sealer/primer
- Medicines (expired)
- Diabetic syringes
- Dyes
- Moth balls/flakes
- Aerosol cans

COMPUTERS

- Monitors
- Hard Drives
- Keyboards

OTHER

- Propane tanks for gas grills

GARAGE

- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Car wax
- Metal polish
- Automatic transmission fluid
- Oil filters
- Fuel oil
- Gas & diesel additives
- Engine cleaners
- Auto batteries & acid
- Kerosene

WORKSHOP

- Oil based paint only
- Paint thinner & stripper
- Turpentine
- Primer
- Varnish
- Glue, solvent based
- Paint brush cleaner
- Mineral spirits
- Wood stain & preservatives
- Gun cleaning solvents
- Photographic chemicals
- Lighter fluid
- Fiberglass epoxy
- Dry cleaning solvents
- Artists paints & mediums
- Upholstery & carpet cleaners

NOTE: Dispose of latex (water based) paint by drying it (with kitty litter) and place open cans next to your garbage cans.

UPDATE ON RECYCLING REGULATIONS



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS

- Clean. **NO** caps. Labels are OK
- **NO** window glass, light bulbs, dishes or ceramic mugs
- **NO** broken glass for safety reasons
- **NO GREEN GLASS** (wine bottles etc.)



NEWSPAPERS & BROWN PAPER BAGS

- Newspaper and all inserts (TV Guide OK)
- Do not mix with white paper, envelopes, junk mail, magazines or cereal boxes
- **NO** plastic bags or plastic sleeves
- Cardboard OK - must be broken down & tied. Cannot be any larger than 2' x 3'



METAL & ALUMINUM CANS, PIE TINS

- Clean. Labels do not have to be removed.
- Clean aluminum trays & pie tins
- **NO** foil
- **NO** aerosol
- Place loose metal lids inside metal cans and squeeze or leave lids slightly attached and fold in.



GLOSSY MAGAZINES & ADVERTISEMENTS

- Magazines—with or without staples
- Advertisements on glossy & semi-glossy paper
- **NO** envelopes of any kind or junk mail
- **DO NOT** mix with newspaper
- **Tie newspapers securely with string. Place inside the bin if it fits, otherwise place on top of the recycling bin.**



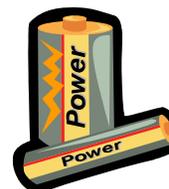
PLASTIC JUGS & BOTTLES

- Rinse clean. Labels do not have to be removed.
- Flatten, if possible
- **NO** caps. They are made of non-recyclable plastic
- All bottles marked 1 or 2 on the bottom, except:
 - * **NO** microwave plates
 - * **NO** motor oil containers or hazardous product containers
- **NO** plastic bags
- **NO** containers marked on the bottom with numbers 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7



HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

- All AA, AAA, C, D, button, 9-volt and rechargeable batteries. *Store in a clear plastic bag; place inside bin.*
- **NO** fire or smoke alarm batteries
- **NO** auto batteries



TELEPHONE BOOKS

- Place in recycling bin



LARGE ITEM PICK UP REGULATIONS

Date: Thursday, June 12, 2008

Time: All large 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
- * Automotive parts
- * No Tires
- * 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 does have dumpsters (roll-offs) available.

Officers Promoted (Cont. from Pg. 1)

Bachelor of Science Degree and has accumulated 760 hours of additional police training.

Among the recipients of service awards were the following:

Unit Citation –Apprehension of suspects, assist in medical emergencies

- Sgt. Brian Crane
- Lt. William Castro
- Sgt. James Hirschfeld
- Officer Steve Goulet
- Officer James Gardner
- Officer Michael Bastianelli
- Officer Michael VanLacken
- Officer Mark Dyjewski
- Reserve Officer Joseph Kovacs

Professional Service Award

Lt. William Castro

Chief’s Citation (years of service)

Officer David M. Dwyer (10 yrs as liaison to Mobile Watch)

The awards ceremony also recognized the years of service of many Reserve Officers. These men and women volunteer their time to help keep Bingham Farms a safe community in which to live and work.

The following Reserve Officers received the Chief’s Citation for years of service:

- Ronald Berris (10 yrs)
- Kevin Crane (22 yrs)
- William Ewald (17 yrs)
- John Handy (20 yrs)
- Joseph Kovacs (14 yrs)
- Thomas Kwietniewski (7 yrs)
- Michael Melekian (29 yrs)
- Lisa Schaefer (4 yrs)

Congratulations to every police officer and reserve officer for their dedicated service to the community.

**FRANKLIN BINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPEN HOUSE
April 16, 2008
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
All residents are invited.**

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

U.S. SENATORS

Carl Levin (D) 202-224-6221
senator@levin.senate.gov

Debbie Stabenow (D) 202-224-4822
senator@stabenow.senate.gov

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Joe Knollenberg (R) 202-225-5802
rep.knollenberg@mail.house.gov

STATE SENATOR

Gilda Jacobs (D) 517-373-7888
sengjacobs@senate.state.mi.us

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Chuck Moss (R) 517-373-8670
chuckmoss@house.mi.gov

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mike Cox (R) 517-373-1110
www.michigan.gov/ag

ADVERTISING SIGNS

One of the comments people make about Bingham Farms is how beautiful it is, especially the rural look of Village streets and its natural features.

What adds to the beauty is the lack of signs sitting on a property.



There are only a few signs that are allowed in the Village: “House For Sale” and political signs. There are regulations even for these.

The signs NOT ALLOWED are those of private contractors such as window companies, asphalt companies, home builders, etc.

What the Village recommends instead of the onslaught of signs is to simply ask a neighbor who they have used on various projects. It may be the best way to find a good contractor.

THE FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING GREEN GLASS

Residents have often asked why Car Trucking does not accept green glass for recycling.

The main reason is that the private contractor has not been able to find an in-state source for the glass. Much of the recycled glass is shipped out of state to glass manufacturing plants. Local facilities will charge the recycling contractor rather than pay him for the glass.



One may ask, what’s so different about green glass?

Green glass is usually “colored” using metals like iron, chromium or copper. It is better at keeping sunlight and temperature from affecting the contents inside, which explains why

it’s often used for wine bottles.

There are renewed efforts to look for alternate sources for green glass recycling. As more alternatives become available, the market for green glass recyclables should increase. The Village and Car Trucking periodically assess the marketplace to look for new opportunities.

On the recycling note, the Village now uses a one-bin system, replacing the original three-bin system.

The contractor will separate the recyclables at the truck, eliminating the need for separation in the home.

The cost of the recycling bin is \$12. Call the Village office to order one. It will be delivered to you on the regular Thursday trash pick up day.

RAIN GARDENS A GROWING IDEA

Goodbye winter, hello spring. Now may be the perfect time to start thinking about spring planting.

A popular landscaping trend is the rain garden, a design that traps storm water runoff and uses it to nourish plantings. Plants and soils filter storm water naturally, removing nutrients and other pollutants. And that's good for the environment.

The concept is growing in Michigan, both in residential and commercial areas.

Earth-friendly landscaping reduces the need for lots of herbicides and pesticides that pollute rivers and streams. Plants native to Michigan are better able to tolerate Michigan's climate. They also require less fertilizer and water and are more disease resistant. Native plants also create small ecosystems attracting birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.



To find out more about rain gardens, register for a workshop to be held on May 1st at the Community House in Birmingham. The cost is \$10. The program will highlight examples of rain gardens at small business facilities and residential areas. It will provide maintenance ideas and a recommended plant list.

For more information call Lilian Dean at 248-288-5150 or e-mail her at lfdean@aol.com.

To register call the Community house at 248-644-5832 or register online at www.communityhouse.com.

**Household Hazardous Waste
Drop Off
Saturday
June 7, 2008**

**Large Item Pick Up
Thursday
June 12, 2008**

AT&T ROLLING OUT VIDEO PACKAGES

AT&T is offering competitive cable TV products in Bingham Farms, however, it is not Village-wide.

According to Carmen Johnson, an AT&T representative, approximately 50% of the Village is ready. Bingham Woods residents have informed the Village that the service is available to them.

AT&T has not provided the Village with a build-out plan. To comply with the Universal Franchise Agreement they have with the Village, full build out is not required until 2009.

To find out if AT&T is operating on your street, log on to their website at www.uverse.att.com. Enter your address and it should indicate whether it is available at your location.

If it's not, type in your email address and AT&T will notify you when the product is available.

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

Hazardous Waste (Cont. from Pg. 1)

and vials, will be accepted. However, large amounts will not be accepted.

Finally, latex paint may be placed with regular garbage if it is dried. To dry small amounts of latex paint, pour kitty litter into the container. Let it solidify and then place next to regular trash cans for pickup on Thursdays.

SEVERE WEATHER TESTING

1st SATURDAY OF
THE MONTH
At 1:00 p.m.



SNOW PLOW VIOLATIONS

Hopefully, the worst of winter is over and there won't be much more snow. To date, the Village has spent more than \$15,000 salting and plowing the roads.

Each year, the Village notifies residents that private snow plow contractors should not push the snow across the street from one driveway to another. State law and local ordinance prohibit this. In fact, the practice can carry a \$100 price tag in the form of a civil infraction ticket.



This past winter, more than 20 notices were sent to homeowners informing them their snow plow contractor was in violation. Every effort is made to encourage property owners to keep their private contractors in compliance.

For all the property owners who followed the rules, THANK YOU.

ARBOR DAY

April 22nd is Earth Day, a day dedicated to the earth's environment. It's also considered Arbor Day.

More than 500 million people worldwide participate in some form of celebration, according to Earth Network.

Why not celebrate by planting a tree, especially in light of the devastation caused by the Emerald Ash Borer? Statewide, thousands of trees succumbed to the disease.



If planting isn't in your plans, there are other ways to celebrate. When out for a walk, pick up any litter you see.

Every little bit helps.

SOLICITATION RULES

Does Bingham Farms prohibit solicitation in the village?

Surprisingly, the answer is No. However, the Village requires solicitors to comply with strict requirements before a permit is issued. All solicitors **MUST HAVE A PERMIT.**

However, religious groups, including those who may be soliciting payment for publications, are exempt under Federal law. They must however, register with the municipality and provide the names of the solicitors and the dates when they will be "working" in the Village.

There have been occasions where solicitors have tried to sell products in the Village and try to use permits issued by other municipalities. This is not legal.

If a solicitor appears at your door, it is your right to ask to see his permit. He must also have appropriate identification.

A solicitor may not enter onto any premise where a "No Solicitation" sign is posted and may be subject to a ticket. This applies to religious canvassers as well.

If you find a solicitor who does not have a valid permit, call police dispatch at 248-626-5444.

HELP STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING

Every year the village expends tax money picking up material that has been dumped in the Village rights of way. It ranges from a truck full of old tires to wood chips to tree trunks.

If you see anything suspicious, such as a slow-moving, fully loaded truck, call police dispatch at **248-626-5444.**

If caught, the culprits face stiff monetary penalties.

PERMITS NEEDED

Looking for a quick rule of thumb as to when permits are needed? Here's a thumbnail sketch that hopefully will help.

- Home Additions - Yes
- Driveway Repair - Yes
- Roofing - Yes
- Electrical Work - Yes
- Plumbing - Yes

Landscaping - It Depends

Should you have any questions, call the Village office first at 248-644-0044. A quick call could save you a few headaches and unexpected expenses.

COMPOST SEASON BEGINS

The snow has melted and now all the mess from the winter is clearly visible. Downed branches, twigs and the last of the autumn leaves are cluttering the lawn.

The Village's rubbish contractor, Car Trucking, will pick this material up and take it to a compost site.



Just put the clippings in brown bags and place the bags at the road on rubbish collection day. You can also tie loose branches into bundles. But keep the bundles no longer than 4-feet in length so they fit inside the trucks. This also includes dead bushes.

Compost service runs from April 10th through November 20th. There is no cost to the homeowner.

NOXIOUS WEEDS NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

In response to several complaints received last year, a new ordinance was adopted to enable the Village to step in when a property owner fails to cut the lawn. The Village defined noxious weeds to include grass that is 8-inches or higher.

The Village must publish a notice annually advising owners of the ordinance. Once published, the Village then writes a letter to the property owner giving ten days to rectify the situation. If not acted upon, the Village then contracts with a landscape company to cut the lawn.

What follows is the published notice.

Pursuant to Section 95.36(A), the Village hereby publishes notice to property owners that noxious weeds existing on a property as of May 1 of that year may be cut, mowed or removed by the Village, with the property owner charged with the Village's actual and administrative costs and expenses in doing so, as many times that calendar year as necessary to keep the property free from noxious weeds.

Specifically, the Village will provide written notice to owners of property upon which noxious weeds exist, and to occupants and agents of said owners known to the Village: (i) to cut, mow or remove the noxious weeds within 10 days of the date of the notice, (ii) to thereafter maintain the property free from noxious weeds, (iii) that upon a failure or refusal to do so, that the Commissioner, by Village employees or contractors, will enter upon the property and perform the required cutting, mowing or removal, (iv) that payment of the Village's actual and administrative expenses incurred in cutting, mowing or removal is the responsibility of the property owners and is secured by a lien on the property, (v) that the existence of noxious weeds is a public nuisance and (vi) of any public nuisance hearing that may be scheduled before the Village Council under Section 95.08.



ROAD WORK PLANS

Get ready, set and go. The Village is finalizing its road work projects for summer.

First on the list is Old Orchard Trail. The road will be totally reconstructed which means the old pavement will be removed, a new base installed and then new asphalt poured.

The Village has been fortunate that bonds have not been needed to cover the cost of the road programs. Through careful budgeting, it is hoped the Village can continue this policy. However, cuts in state revenue sharing and the impact of Proposal A and Headlee are making it more difficult.

As a result the Village has had to slow down the projects.

The next projects will be Shagwood and Fromm Dr. Scheduling of these projects will depend upon available funding and assessment of the overall condition of the roads.

Regular road maintenance will continue as needed.



KEEP YOUR VALUABLES SAFE

The price of gold is soaring. This seems to be the only good economic news lately. That fact has not been lost on thieves.

The Police Chief recently shared his thoughts on what homeowners should do to keep their valuables safe.

His first suggestion is that every homeowner put valuables in a safe. Purchase one that can be bolted to the floor. A safe not bolted down can be easily carried out the door.

Every homeowner should also have a working security system. When leaving the house, even for a short period of time, **turn it on**. A thief can be in and out of your home in less than five minutes. A triggered alarm makes it more difficult for them.



TAX INFO FACTS

The impact of a poor Michigan economy coupled with the burst of the housing bubble is taking its toll. Recently, homeowners received a Notice of Assessment, Taxable Value and Property Classification from Southfield Township. For many taxpayers, the notice showed the Taxable Value increasing but the Assessed Value decreasing.

The question is how can that happen?

In past years, property owners were content seeing Assessed Values rising faster than increases in the Taxable Value, keeping taxes lower. In some cases the Taxable Value was more than 24% below the Assessed Value. This was a function of Proposal A which capped the increases on Taxable Values to no more than 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever was less.

That phenomenon has changed. Assessed Values are coming down to reflect market conditions and bringing that number closer to the Taxable Value. Taxpayers should remember the level of tax savings accrued over the years as a result of Proposal A.

According to Southfield Twp., some taxpayers have asked to have their Assessed Value lowered to reflect current market values, hoping to reduce their taxes. This may not do anything to reduce those taxes based on Taxable Value, such as school and county taxes. Homeowners who have recently purchased a house however might see a reduction **if the assessed value is greater than the recent purchase price**.

Village taxes are based on a formula balancing revenues to expenditures for a given fiscal year. It is not based upon the Taxable Value of the home.



DID YOU KNOW?

Like other municipalities, the Village has adopted ordinances to keep the peace and tranquility of our community. A few snippets of those ordinances follow.

- ◆ Vehicles for Sale - it's unlawful to display a vehicle for sale on a public road or right of way. This includes cars parked at the end of a driveway. (Sec.95.10) 
- ◆ Construction noise not allowed after dusk or before 7:00 a.m. No construction on Sundays. (Sec. 95.21 A) 
- ◆ After 11:00 p.m., tone down outside noise (Sec. 95.21 E) 
- ◆ Underground fences for dogs are not to be placed in the front yard unless approval has been granted by the Village Council. (Sec. 157.007 N) 
- ◆ Yard sales are allowed and no permit is needed. Signs must be removed immediately following the end of the sale. 
- ◆ No more than three regulated trees may be removed from a site within a 2-year time period without obtaining a permit. The removal of dead or damaged trees does not require a permit. (Sec. 93.01-93.11) 

The complete ordinance may be found on the Village website. They may be found on the Home Page under "Code". If you have any questions, call the Village office at 248-644-0044.

Wildlife Habitat (Cont from Pg. 2)

Prevent the buildup of feeder foods under bird feeders. Coyotes will eat bird food and are attracted to the many birds and rodents that come to feeders.

Keep dogs and cats indoors, especially from dusk to dawn. If left outside at night in an unprotected area, cats and small to mid-size dogs are vulnerable to attack.

If a person is scratched or bitten by a coyote, immediately clean the wound with soap and water. If your pet is bitten, follow the same procedure and then call your vet.

Remember, coyotes normally are timid creatures and will generally run away if challenged. Give them some space.

**VILLAGE OFFICES
HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

May 26th - Memorial Day

July 4th - Independence Day



**Southfield Twp.
Free Shredding**
May 3, 10:00 - Noon
18550 W. Thirteen Mile Rd.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bingham Farms

Franklin/Bingham Fire Dept. Open House - April 16
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Mobile Watch 25th Anniversary Celebration - May 7
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Bingham Woods Clubhouse

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off - June 7
10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. - Jamestowne South Parking Lot

Large Item Pick Up - June 12th

Birmingham

Residential Rain Garden Class - Community House - May 1
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Festival—Shain Park

May 10 - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
May 11 - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Village Fair - May 29-June 1

In The Park Concerts - 7 p.m. Shain Park
June 18, June 25, July 2 and July 9

Franklin

Garden Walk - June 11 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. -
9:00 p.m. Questions 248-851-1814

Beverly Hills

Fun Run & Walk - May 26 at 9:30 a.m.– Beverly School
Parade & Carnival - May 26 at 11:30 a.m.– Beverly Park

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Village of Bingham Farms
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