



# THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Spring, 2011

## ROUND TWO OF THE TELEGRAPH RD. RECONSTRUCTION SET TO BEGIN

Hopefully, the construction nightmare from last summer has faded. However, it's about to return as MDOT gears up for another season of road work, which will start in mid-April.

The good news for Village residents is that two of the Telegraph Rd. projects from last summer have been completed; the project from 8 Mile to I-696 and from Maple to Long Lake Road. This should alleviate most of the traffic jams experienced last year.

Now, only one section remains to be reconstructed; the northbound lanes from 12 1/2 Mile to Maple Road. Given that most of the median work has been completed, the project is expected to be completed by the end of July, weather permitting of course.

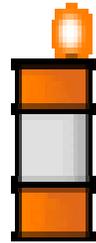
The Village is working with MDOT regarding tree replacement for the medians. A Tree Restoration Plan has been submitted. MDOT has not yet approved the plan submitted by the Village.

Due to the severe conditions that trees are exposed to on the medians,

the maximum diameter of a replacement tree cannot exceed 2". Larger diameter trees have a more difficult time acclimating to these conditions and the loss rate is high.

As a result of this road reconstruction program, the Village has an opportunity to install sidewalks on the east side of Telegraph Rd. The cost of this sidewalk will be covered by a federal program for non-motorized pathways. There is not enough road easement currently and the Village is working with building owners to secure the easements necessary. These negotiations are ongoing.

In the meantime, motorists are advised to change their routines during rush hour. It is advisable to either leave earlier or later to avoid the worst of the traffic.



## LARGE ITEM PICK UP SCHEDULED

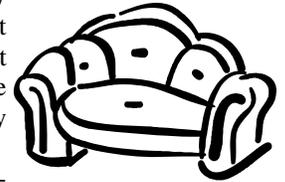
It's coming. The Village's semi-annual, free, large item pick up is set for **Thursday, June 9th**. All items should be at the street by 7:00 a.m. Large bulky items may be placed at the street the weekend before the pick up.

For new residents, the Village contracts with its rubbish contractor twice a year to haul away large items that normally are not included in the regular Thursday pick up.

This includes sofas, washing machines and hot water heaters.

It does not mean that it's time to clean out all the rubbish stored in your home. In the past, residents who were moving out of their home figured they could put everything out at the street. One resident had boxes and rubbish lined all along the street and half way down the driveway.

Car Trucking has the authority to  
**Cont. on Pg. 2**



## VILLAGE BI-ANNUAL ELECTIONS COMING

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 13. This is the date for the Village's Bi-Annual Election.

Three trustee positions will be on the ballot. These are four year terms of office.

Currently holding these seats are William (Bill) Gollnitz, Delores Tripp and Dorothy Warren.

The election will be held at Bingham Farms Elementary School. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Trustees are responsible for setting policy, establishing a balanced budget, reviewing expenditures, enforcing ordinances and regulations and enter-

ing into contracts for police and fire services, road projects and the like.

The Council meets on the 4th Monday of each month with the exception of December when the meetings take place on the third Monday.

In order to run for the position of trustee, a person must be 25 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of Bingham Farms and an owner of real property in the Village or the lawful wife or husband of such person.

To run for office and appear

on the ballot, a candidate must file a Nominating Petition containing at least 15 signatures of registered voters in the Village and file an Affidavit of Identity.

All forms are available at the Village office.

Nominating Petitions and the Affidavit of Identity are due in the Village office by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21.

For new residents, to become a registered voter, stop in at the Southfield Township offices located at 18550 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., or the Village offices. Proof of residency is required.

When you vote, there are always three to four people working elections.

**Cont. on Pg. 2**



## ***THE FIGHT CONTINUES AGAINST THE WEST NILE VIRUS***

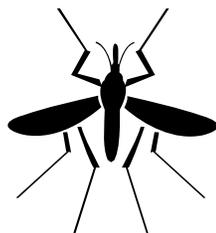
## ***VILLAGE BALANCES ITS BUDGET***

With record snowfalls this past winter, the concern is how this will impact the crop of mosquitoes this spring and beyond. This pest is not going away anytime soon.

The West Nile Virus is spread to humans when bitten by a mosquito that carries the virus.

The number of human cases has been very low over the last several years and that's because people are doing a great job protecting themselves. The best defense is a good offense. Once again, there were no human cases reported in Oakland County last year.

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.

Dead birds can also be an indicator of West Nile Virus infected mosquitoes are in the area. To report dead birds, call the Oakland County Health Division Hotline at 1.877.377.3641. Wear gloves to protect yourself from direct contact with the bird and dispose of it properly.

For updates on West Nile Virus, log on to:

[www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus](http://www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus)  
or  
[www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com).

It's crunch time as the Village works on its FY 2011-2012 Budget. Like many other municipalities, the Village has seen a significant reduction in two primary sources of revenue; property taxes and state revenue sharing. And we all know what interest Certificates of Deposit earn these days.

But unlike many municipalities, the Village will balance the budget and still be able to retain a healthy fund balance which should help the Village weather the long lasting economic turmoil.

The Village has seen the total taxable value on real property drop 10% each of the last two years. The taxable values in the commercial district have seen even larger percentage decreases, some as much as 30%.

On the expense side, the big ticket expenses are for services purchased from others. These services include, police and fire protection, library, and rubbish. While the cost for these services may be high, it still is less than if the Village had to provide these on our own.

The Village has established a preliminary budget that retains all these major services for this year. Residents will pay the same amount of Village taxes as last year, even though the millage rate may be raised from the 6.8 mills, which had been levied for the past 11 years.

One of the results of this bare-bones budget is the suspension of all major road projects in the Village; staff salaries have been frozen for the third year and funding in other areas has been reduced, such as contracted professional services.

A copy of the budget is available for review in the Village office and on our website, [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org).

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

bypass homes that have an excessive amount of rubbish. If you are in need of a roll-off, call Car Trucking. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Village office or Car Trucking at 586.791.8480 to avoid any problems on the big day.

### **Village Elections Cont. from Pg. 1**

These are election inspectors who are trained to run a precinct.

There is always a need for a few good men and women to help out. The day is long but the rewards are great. If you are interested in becoming an election inspector or want more information on the role of the election inspector, call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

***LATEX PAINT  
IS NOT  
HAZARDOUS WASTE!  
DRY IT UP  
AND  
PUT IT OUT WITH  
YOUR  
REGULAR RUBBISH***

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**David M. Leckie**

Greetings from the corner. Well, Mother Nature is playing games again. The calendar says it's spring, however if you step outside, it sure doesn't feel like it. Hopefully, it'll start warming up soon.

Like the State Budget, the proposed village budget is really tight. It has to be bare-bones in order to support the major services such as police and fire, rubbish collection and road maintenance.

Fortunately, the village has a sufficient fund balance to carry us through this severe downturn.

The proposed budget for FY 2011-2012 will reduce the fund balance. However, the remaining fund balance reserve remains well in line with state guidelines.

Here are a few of the highlights of the Budget under consideration.

- ♦ Overall a 10% cut in administrative expenses in addition to substantial cuts made last year.
- ♦ Significant reductions in consulting services
- ♦ Delay in road reconstruction for the remaining three roads.

## VILLAGE NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC

Sorry to say this may be the last printed edition of "The Bingham Farms Post". Due to rising mailing costs, this may be one of the proposed cuts in the Village budget.

But don't despair. The newsletter will still be posted on the Village website at [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org).

Over the past few years, the U.S. Post Office has added a number of new requirements that raised mailing costs.

Now folded pieces (such as our newsletter) must be secured in three places using 1 1/2 inch labels. In the past, only 1 smaller label was allowed.

Trays used to bring the newsletter to the post office must now be secured with plastic ties. Ironically, the

- ♦ Cutback in roadside maintenance.

It would be a great help if residents chip in by cutting the grass on their property which abuts the road. Also if there are protruding branches, cut those back.

Another savings can be achieved if residents refrain from taking latex paint to SOCRRA, as this is not a hazardous waste.

If everyone pitches in, it will go a long way to keeping the village looking its best.

Our village has been very fortunate to have such an experienced staff. We are unique in that the entire village operates with just two full time employees and one part time employee. It is their expertise that allows our village to run so efficiently.

The village is also fortunate to have a first-class, well-trained police department and volunteer fire department. Thanks to everyone for their hard work that helps keep our village such a wonderful place to live.

ties are immediately removed by the Postal employee when the trays arrive at the post office.

Sufficient to say, the increased mandates have become too costly and time-consuming.

The newsletter will remain a quarterly publication; published in January, April, July and October.

A real plus is that the newsletter is available on-line all the time. If you want to check on something, all you have to do is visit the Village website.



## SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR MAY

Sometimes our Mobile Watch discussions are not about recent tours through the Village or even about our next monthly meeting, but rather about a special presentation on a subject of interest to our members.

While we do spend a lot of time driving around the Village, we do our best to keep things varied throughout the year. So we make special plans for a police-fire picnic in late summer, a Holidayfest in December, and something special for spring, usually in the month of May.

Right now, we are considering one of three subjects for our May meeting. One idea is a lecture and Q & A on the subject of Alzheimer's disease, now affecting over five million people in this country and projected to affect over fifteen million people before long.

Another topic might be a review of counterfeit money, what it looks like, how it's made and distributed. It certainly is an interesting topic.

The third topic was suggested by our Director of Scheduling, Ron Denton. He read an article about personal and home security. The article addresses home invasions from a thief's perspective.

For example, one of the best tips from the article was to keep a can or two of wasp spray close by (not just a bug spray). Wasp spray can shoot a stream some 20 or 30 feet. Spraying an intruder in the face could stop him in his tracks.

Members will choose the topic at our April meeting. So keep in touch with any Mobile Watch member you know to learn what our subject will be, and perhaps you will join us at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of May in the Bingham Woods Clubhouse. We would be happy to have you as a guest.

On a final note, we are pleased to report that, so far this year everything has been quiet. We have had no Home Invasions since the two attempts last December, which prompted us to be ever more watchful.

Mobile Watch

## WATCH OUT FOR THE LATEST SCAMS

Thieves are constantly looking for ways in which to scam people out of their money or property. It doesn't take long for them to figure out a way to manipulate something that was developed to make life a little easier or convenient and to use it for a way to steal. Craigslist is an example of this.

One of the major reasons criminals are attracted to Craigslist is its anonymous nature. People posting ads do not have to report any identifying information. Thieves are not only placing ads on Craigslist, but they are responding to them as well!

Over the past year, there were several incidents in Oakland County where people who posted items for sale or responded to ads offering items for sale were victimized. One incident involved a posting of furniture for sale. A thief from outside the country sent the seller a certified check to cover the cost of the furniture plus additional funds to cover the cost of having it shipped.

The victim was asked to send some of the additional funds from the check, via Western Union, to an expediting company that would pick up the furniture. After the victim sent the money he discovered that the certified check sent to him turned out to be fraudulent.

In another incident, the victim posted an ad seeking to purchase an Android cell phone. The suspect is believed to have contacted the victim offering to sell him a phone. When they met, the victim was robbed of his cash and fatally shot by the suspect.

Although the overwhelming majority of transactions on Craigslist are legitimate, there are still some precautions you should follow.

1. Use the "buddy system". Have a friend with you when meeting with a person for a transaction and consider meeting in a public place.
2. If you're purchasing something of high value, such as a used car, it's wise to get a background check on the vehicle before agreeing to buy

Cont. on Pg. 6

## TIPS FOR A ROUGE-FRIENDLY LAWN

Cleaning up the Rouge River requires a constant effort to remove pollutants to the river. Here are a few tips for a green lawn that holds fertilizers in place and keeps them out of the Rouge.

- **Mulch your grass clippings.** Clippings are a source of nitrogen, so fertilizer quantities can be reduced by 25% or more. Clippings do not cause thatch!

- **Cut high – at three inches.** Tall grass promotes root growth and a thick lawn. Tall grass shades out weeds. Cut no more than one-third of the grass blade at one time.

- **Aerate compacted soil.** Rent a core aerator machine or hire a professional service. Core aeration improves drainage and allows water and oxygen to reach the grass roots.

- **Build healthy soil with organic matter.** Rake compost into the lawn; mow dry leaves; and/or use a natural organic fertilizer that contains organic matter as well as nutrients.

- **Select earth-friendly fertilizers.** These fertilizers are designated with a bright green sticker at many local retailers. They contain no or low levels of phosphorus, one of the significant pollutants in the Rouge River. They are also slow-release nitrogen – good for grass growth and water quality. No weed or insect control products are in earth-friendly fertilizers.

- **Select lawn services that offer the HEALTHY LAWN CARE PROGRAM FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION.** For a list of endorsed firms contact the Michigan Green Industry Association at 248.646.4992 or visit [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org).

For a complete healthy lawn care package – tip sheet and report – check out [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org).

## WHAT'S COMING UP AT THE BALDWIN LIBRARY

We need your help to “Build a Better Baldwin.” Look for a survey from Baldwin soon—in the library, on our website at [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org), and in the Summer issue of our Books & Beyond newsletter.

Love listening to music? It's even better when it's free! Freegal, a music download service, has been added to Baldwin's first-class online offerings. Freegal offers hundreds of thousands of songs—new and old—from the Sony Music catalog, available for you to download to your computer or iPod to keep! Visit [www.baldwinlib.org/freegal](http://www.baldwinlib.org/freegal) to get started.



If you're trying to figure out your eReader or iPod or would like to borrow an eBook for your Nook or other reading device, you'll want to join us for our “Introduction to eBooks and eAudiobooks” class on Wednesday, May 4 at 7 pm. Call 248-554-4650 to register!

Stop by the Library's Summer Reading Kick Off on Friday, June 17 from 1 pm to 5 pm! We've got a fantastic lineup of programs and events this summer—fun for all ages!

Interested in staying up to date on what's happening at the Library? Register to receive our eNews delivered to your inbox each month. Visit [www.baldwinlib.org/enews](http://www.baldwinlib.org/enews) to sign up today!

Baldwin provides priority registration for Library programs to residents of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, and Bingham Farms. Stop on by and see what we've got going on.

From the Baldwin Library

## **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT SOCRRA**

In order to bring household hazardous materials to the SOCRRA facility, residents need to schedule an appointment. Call SOCRRA at **248.288.5153**. The staff will ask a few questions about what type of material you want to drop off and what amounts. You will be given a date and time for your drop off.

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

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

The SOCRRA website has good information on what is considered hazardous and what is not. It also provides alternatives to reduce the amount of product that is dropped off. Should you have any questions, call SOCRRA at **248.288.5153** or visit their website at [www.socrra.org](http://www.socrra.org).

## **MORE CAN BE RECYCLED**

Ingenuity is fantastic. And as entrepreneurs keep finding ways to reuse materials, more products can be recycled.

Don't know what to do with all the plastic bags from the supermarket? Put them in your recycling bin.

Confused over what types of plastic are now recyclable? All kinds. You don't have to look for the recycling labels on the bottom of the carton anymore. Just put them in the recycling bin. The only exception is Styrofoam.

And what about wine bottles? All types are accepted now: clear, green or brown.



## **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

It's great to see so many Village residents using the Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Program at SOCRRA.

It's convenient, easy and available all year long. The contract between the Village and SOCRRA also allows residents to drop off electronic equipment, such as televisions (no consoles) and computer equipment.

Last year, there were 247 trips made to the facility. As expected, most of those trips were for disposing of hazardous waste.

The Village strongly supports resident use. However, the one recurring problem involves residents dropping off latex paint to the facility. More than 51% of the items dropped off were latex paint.



LATEX PAINT IS NOT A HAZARDOUS MATERIAL. It can be easily disposed of with regular rubbish. See Pg. 9 for complete instructions.

Disposing of latex paint is not difficult and it can save the village money.

Help out. Dispose of unused latex paint properly. Oil based paint and other oil based products such as turpentine should be brought to the SOCRRA facility.

**BINGHAM FARMS  
RESIDENTS  
FREE  
HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENT  
SHREDDING  
AT  
SOUTHFIELD TWP.  
18550 W. 13 Mile Rd.  
May 7, 2011  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

## **WHY IS THERE NO CABLE COMPETITION IN BINGHAM?**

A condo resident recently asked why AT&T's U-Verse product was not available to him. His neighbor right across the street has it.

The answer is that Michigan adopted a universal franchise agreement, under which AT&T provides cable service. The franchise mandates that service must be available to 25% of the state population. There is no requirement that they serve an entire community. It allows AT&T to cherry pick; that is, to offer service where their profits can be maximized.

The Village has no ability to question AT&T regarding any future build out. This means one neighbor can get service, the other cannot.

The only recommendation is to file a complaint with the MPSC. Complaints should be sent to [www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/video/video\\_comp.html](http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/video/video_comp.html) or write to them at Michigan Public Service Commission Attn: Video Franchising P.O. Box 30021 Lansing, MI 48909

Or by fax  
517.241.2400

The Birmingham Area Cable Board handles other cable-type complaints such as service issues. The process for resolving TV-related issues follows:

- First call your provider for service.
- If the problem is not corrected, or if they do not show, call the Cable Board at 248.336.9445 and describe your problem.

A customer may also file a service complaint on line by visiting the Cable Board's website

[birminghamareacableboard.org](http://birminghamareacableboard.org).

## HELP STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING

Every year the Village picks up the tab to haul away debris 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** immediately. Getting the license number or a description of the car or truck will help police track down the scofflaws.



If caught, the culprits face stiff fines, and must remove the debris or reimburse the Village for its costs to remove the materials.

## COUNTY PARKS NEWS

Oakland County Parks is now offering gift cards. The cards are good for vehicle permits, greens fees, water park, merchandise and programs at any of the County's 13 Parks.

A minimum of \$10 is required for each card. Cards may be reloaded at any time. The gift card expires 5-years after last use. Did you know, there's even fun things for Fido.



There are three dog parks located at Lyon Oak, which has a 13 acre site, Orion Oaks with a 24 acre park or Red Oaks, which has a 5 acre park.

Get more information from the Parks & Recreation website at [www.destinationoakland.com](http://www.destinationoakland.com).

**LARGE ITEM PICK UP  
JUNE 9, 2011**

**ALL ITEMS TO THE  
STREET BY  
7:00 A.M.  
See Pg. 9 for details**

## PUBLIC NOTICE NOXIOUS WEEDS

It does not happen often, but there are times when property owners move away and the property is not maintained, especially mowing the grass. Grass that reaches a height of eight inches or more is considered a noxious weed.

Before the Village steps in to remove the violation, an annual notice is published in the Eccentric newspaper advising owners of the noxious weed ordinance. After the newspaper notice, the Village has the ability to act.

When an infraction occurs, a letter is sent to the property owner giving him ten days to rectify the situation. If not resolved within that time period, the Village will contract with a landscape company to cut the lawn.

The notice reads:

"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."



### Latest Scams Continued from Pg. 4

- it. The car could be stolen.
- 3. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Finally, the Craigslist website itself informs users of common sense ways to remain safe while buying and selling goods and services. It advises to not release personal or financial information; not to wire funds via Western Union or Money Gram; and to look for fake cashier checks and money orders.

The more you know about the types of scams and frauds that are taking place the better prepared you are to avoid becoming a victim.

### **WANT TO BE KEPT INFORMED AND RECEIVE SPECIAL ALERTS?**

**Register with the Village at  
[info@binghamfarms.org](mailto:info@binghamfarms.org)**

**Receive warnings, water alerts,  
police notices and more via  
Email.**

**Sign up today.**

## ***DOGGIE RULES***

For some people, dogs are not a problem. For others, they're a big problem. This is why there are local laws established.

All dogs must be licensed. Southfield Twp. provides these licenses. Just bring your dog's vaccination record with you and pay the fee for the annual license: \$5.00 from Jan. 1 - March 31 and \$10.00 thereafter.

Barking dogs can be an irritant to neighbors. Please be considerate and do not leave a barking dog outside for any length of time.



The Village allows electronic fences in the rear yard and it must be located four feet away from the rear lot line.

Invisible fencing in side yards or front yards must be approved by the Village Council.

Prior to installation of such fencing, contact the Village office for application forms.

Residents can also install dog runs to contain Fido. Dog runs may not be more than 250 sq. ft. and no more than 4' in height.

**PLEASE  
REMEMBER:  
PICK UP AFTER YOUR  
DOG  
IF HE LEAVES A  
MEMENTO  
ON ANOTHER'S  
PROPERTY.**

## ***ADVANCED METERING COMING***

It's on the way. DTE will soon begin installing advanced metering in Bingham Farms. The first step is to install a new electric meter. If your meter is on the outside of your home, there will be no need to bother you.

In most cases installation is simple and quick, requiring a brief, five-minute interruption to your electric service. During the initial installation period, a meter reader will continue to read your meter until your neighborhood is fully upgraded. The meter reader's reading will be compared to the advanced meter reading to assure accuracy.



The benefits from this new system will eventually bring:

- Remote reading - no reason for the meter reader to enter private property
- Elimination of the majority of estimated bills
- Automatic detection of outages
- 24-hour on-line access to your daily energy use
- New rates and programs to help you save money and energy.

For more information visit the SmartCurrents website, [smartcurrents.com](http://smartcurrents.com) or [dteenergy.com/advancedmeter](http://dteenergy.com/advancedmeter).

## ***WHAT KIND OF SPRING WILL IT BE?***

Will it be rainy, will it be warm? It's fun to check out the Farmers' Almanac.

For the Midwest/Great Lakes Region, the almanac says

- April 1-3 Unsettled
- April 4-7 Rain then clearing
- April 8-11 Squally weather
- April 16-19 Turning colder
- April 24-27 Big thunderstorms
- May 1-3 Clearing

## ***Graduation Parties Play It Safe***

Senior Prom and graduation are landmark events in most teenagers' lives. Though these two special moments symbolize both maturity and pending adulthood, parents must remember that when it comes to drinking, teens are still legally underage.



The Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition along with the other Oakland County coalitions is again launching the "Parents Who Host, Lose the Most: Don't be a party to underage drinking" public awareness campaign. It is designed to help parents consider the dangers of teenage drinking parties.

Simply stated: Parents who provide alcohol to their children's friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law; parents who knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted; and parents can be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

Also, please remember, if there's going to be a large number of cars parked on the street, ask your guests to park on just one side of the street. This allows emergency vehicles to easily get to someone who may need attention.

May 4-7 Pleasant spring weather  
May 8-11 - Scattered thunderstorms.  
Time will tell how accurate these forecasts are.

No matter what, warm weather is just around the corner. And hopefully, those April showers will bring plenty of colorful May flowers.



## GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSING OF LATEX PAINT

In response to questions regarding what to do with old latex paint, SOCRRA has developed a few simple guidelines. Latex paint is technically not a Household Hazardous Waste, but it is considered a liquid and therefore cannot be placed in with the trash. It must be turned into a solid. To do this, the paint must first be dried or hardened before it is disposed of in the trash, and the empty paint cans be placed in the recycling bin. **Because oil-based paint contains dangerous solvents, it is important to remember that these procedures can only be used with latex paint.**

**Natural Drying** - With latex 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, the hardened paint can be chipped out and placed with the trash. The empty paint can, whether metal or plastic, should be placed in the recycling bin.



### For paint cans that are more than a quarter full, you'll need:

Paint Hardener - You can pick up paint hardener at any local hardware or paint store. Once you have your paint hardener there are a few simple steps to follow:

1. Cover your work surface to protect it from paint splashes
2. Add a paint hardener to the can – read the directions on the packet to find out how much hardener you need to add. Typically one packet will harden up to 2/3rds of a gallon of paint.
3. Stir and mix thoroughly. After a few minutes, the paint will have a chunky, oatmeal-like texture

You can now dispose of the dried paint in the trash. The empty paint can be placed in the recycling bin.

**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.

Some general tips to consider before drying latex paint:

- To limit waste buy only what you need – ask at the paint stores, they are the experts!
- Store cans in a proper place, properly sealed, so the paint doesn't leak or dry out.
- Storing paint cans upside down can help keep paint fresh.
- Try to use all of the paint.
- Donate any leftover paint to local schools, churches or theatre groups.

# ***LARGE ITEM PICK UP REGULATIONS***

**Date:** Thursday June 9, 2011

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

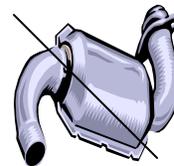
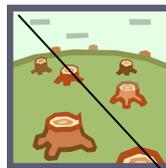
## **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

- \* Large appliances, furniture and hot water heaters  
(Refrigerators & freezers must have Freon removed prior to pick up) (Doors must also be removed)
- \* Only small tree stumps
- \* Brush and tree branches must be bundled and the length may 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
- \* Automotive parts
- \* 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.

## COMPOST SEASON BEGINS

Now that the snow has melted and spring is officially here, the weekly pick up of compost begins on April 7 and will run through the end of November.

Compost materials include leaves, grass, plants and small bushes.

All compost should be placed in **brown paper bags** or tied into bundles no more than 4' in length. Compost placed in plastic bags go as regular trash as the plastic does not disintegrate quickly.



### VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING DATES

**April 25**

**May 23**

**June 27**

**All meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.**

## HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

### Birmingham

**Farmer's Market** - every Sunday May 1- October 23 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Municipal Lot 6

**Art Birmingham** - May 14 & 15- Around Shain Park

**Celebrate Birmingham Parade** - May 15 Downtown Birmingham

**48th Birmingham Village Fair**- June 2 - June 5 around Shain Park

**In the Park Summer Concerts** - Wednesdays, June - August 7:00 p.m. Shain Park

**Battle of the Bands** - June 17 - Booth Park  
Birmingham Concert Band "Ensembles—Big & Small"

**Fireworks** - Lincoln Hills Golf Course - July 3 Gates open at 7:30 pm

### Beverly Hills

**Easter Egg Hunt** - Beverly Park - April 16

**Memorial Day Parade & Carnival** - May 30 Beverly Park - starts at 11:00 am.

**Southfield Twp.** - Free Household Shredding - May 7 - 10 am - Noon 18550 W. Thirteen Mile Rd.

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

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The next edition of the Post is scheduled for July, 2011. Deadline for submission of articles is June 15, 2011.

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)

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