



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Spring, 2012

DESIGN PHASE UNDERWAY FOR NEW THIRTEEN MILE BRIDGE

It's getting closer. Construction work on the new bridge will begin in June, 2013. The design plans are moving forward. The new bridge will change a number of issues that residents have complained about over the years.

First Improvement. The bridge height will be raised approximately five-feet. This means that the current dip in the road will be eliminated. This should give residents pulling out from Bingham Woods and Bingham Road onto Thirteen Mile Rd. better visibility. Gone will be the guesswork. It will be much easier to see oncoming traffic.

Second Improvement. The bridge will be wider. There will be a real shoulder on both sides of the bridge so bike riders have more room and allow cars that have trouble to pull off the road.

Third Improvement. A pedestrian walkway will be added as an extension to the bridge. It will be located on the north side of Thirteen Mile Rd. and will extend from the bridge to Bingham

Rd. and from the bridge to just west of Cardinal Lane.

Construction of the bridge and sidewalk will be paid for by federal funds. The Village has participated in the costs for design work.

Because the bridge will be much more prominent than the existing one, the Village is looking at several aesthetic finishes to incorporate a more natural effect.



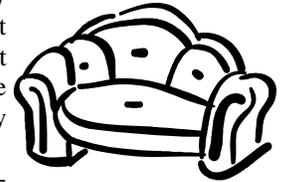
The Village will be responsible for these aesthetic costs. Additionally, the Village is contemplating extending the sidewalk from Bingham Rd. to Telegraph and from west of Cardinal Ln. to the school.

Full construction is expected to begin in mid-June and will force the closing of Thirteen Mile Rd. Hopefully, the road will reopen by September.

LARGE ITEM PICK UP SCHEDULED

Get ready. The Village's semi-annual, free, large item pick up is set for **Thursday, June 7th**. 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

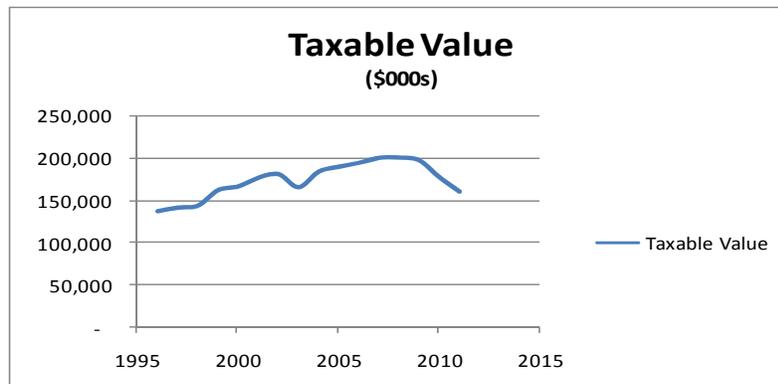
NEW FISCAL YEAR VILLAGE BUDGET IN THE WORKS

Current projections show the Village weathering another year financially despite falling property values and the overall state of the Michigan economy.

Last year, the Village raised the millage rate to 7.4 mills. Even with that increase, the majority of property owners paid less taxes than they did in the previous year. That's because the taxable value of real property has fallen considerably from 2008 when it reached its high of \$199,584,000.

The chart below reflects the precipitous drop, where now the total taxable value sits at \$159,739,000.

The Village Council and staff have worked diligently to keep costs



under control. The Village has been a leader in using shared services to cut down costs. This includes police and fire services, DPW services and library privileges.

Police and Fire services are shared with Franklin and Beverly Hills provides much of the everyday maintenance requirements of Bingham Farms.

The Village contracts with Baldwin Library. Outside contractors are used for rubbish collection, roadside maintenance and engineering.

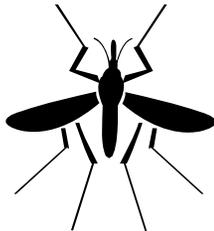
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THE FIGHT CONTINUES AGAINST THE WEST NILE VIRUS

Winter turned out to be relatively mild this year. Snowfall was not remarkable. However, significant rains may provide the perfect habitat for mosquitoes raising the risk they may be infected with the West Nile virus.

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
or
www.oakgov.com.

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.

BURGLARIES ON THE RISE

Not even Bingham Farms could escape the rash of burglaries over the last 18 months. Fortunately, no one has been hurt.

In 2011 there were 14 home invasions; 12 in Franklin & 2 in Bingham Farms. The majority of these crimes occurred during the workweek and between the hours of 8:00 am & 6:00 pm.

In the first two months of 2012 we have already experienced three home invasions; one in the Village of Franklin, on Woodlore Rd., and two in Bingham Farms, one on Shagwood Dr. & one on Timberbrook Ln. All three occurred between February 15th and March 1st.

In two of the break-ins entry was gained by breaking out windows in rear doors and the third was by removing a rear bedroom window. There were no activated alarm systems at any of these homes.

On Friday February 24th at approximately 8:00 pm, two white panel vans, with writing/logos on the side, were observed in the driveway of one of the targeted homes. It is unknown if they were involved with the break-in. Taken in all three break-ins were electronics, jewelry, and clothing.

There are several things homeowners can do to lessen the chance of being the victim of a residential break-in.

- **Always activate** your alarm system prior to leaving home regardless of how long you will be away.
- Use solid core or metal exterior doors.
- Install four-screw strike plates with three-inch screws to penetrate the wood frame. Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Always keep your doors and windows locked. If you are working outside in your yard, lock all doors which are not visible from your work location.
- Add auxiliary track-type locks, removable drop bars, wooden dowels, or pinning devices to windows and sliding glass doors.

Cont. on Pg. 4

Budget Cont. from Pg. 1

The Village has again postponed reconstruction of Timber Trail and Deauville Ct. Maintenance on them will continue.

The Village's fund balance remains well within the state guidelines for a healthy municipality.

Once approved, the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget will be available online.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David M. Leckie

Greetings from the corner. What a strange winter. Not much snow and the temperatures didn't stay below freezing for long. Hope this doesn't mean a hot and dry summer.

Congratulations to the Village of Franklin on the passage of their millage proposal to fund police and fire protection services. It also means that the Franklin Village offices have resumed five days work weeks.

On the financial side for Bingham Farms, our current fiscal year spending is in line with the Budget. We will need to dip into our Fund Balance by just \$55,000, far less than the budgeted \$150,000.

Due to many years of controlling costs, the Village has a strong fund balance that will help carry us through this long-reaching economic downturn. And we are seeing some signs of a turnaround.

The draft budget for FY 2012-2013 will be lean, with the Village again postponing major road work.

There are a few things residents can do to help out. To reduce our roadside maintenance costs, cutting the grass

on your property which abuts the road will help. Also cut back any protruding branches.

If you're walking along the road and see some debris, such as cups, bags or wrappers, pick up one or two items and dispose of them when you get home. If everyone just picked up one or two, the Village roadside would look pristine.

As always, the Village appreciates the volunteer efforts of our residents who serve on the Village Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Board. Council trustees are elected biennially for four year terms. Council appoints members to the Planning Commission and Design Review Board to three-year terms. If you have time to volunteer, let the Village know. The time commitment is not overwhelming.

Applications are available on the Village website at

www.binghamfarms.org.

and click on the "Forms" link.

Here's hoping for a sunny and warm spring.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL BLASTS

Have you signed up for email blasts from the Village or our police department?

The Village has signed on to the County program GovDelivery in an effort to keep residents informed. If there is important news, such as water emergencies, residential break-ins or other emergencies, the Village will send out information via email. It's easy to sign up. Log on to the Village website, www.binghamfarms.org. Click on the link "Stay Informed" and it will direct you to the site where you sign up. The email list is private with only the Village staff having access to it. Sign up now, right now. Almost 190 folks already are in the loop.

Please remember that the Vil-

lage newsletter is now only available online. Council made this difficult decision last year due to the rising costs to publish and mail it.

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

If you are on the email blast, an email blast will be sent out notifying you that the most recent newsletter is ready.

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 at **www.binghamfarms.org**.



AN INVITATION

As we finished last year, we said in our last article that we would let you know if Bingham Farms Mobile Watch set a new record for tours taken in 2011. That is our goal every year. We are sorry to say that a new record was not set, but we were only five short of the goal.

More important at this moment is discussion of our May 2012 meeting, which may be of interest to you. As you may know, we try to break up the year with an event or two, rather than just driving around the Village month after month. Our spring event will be held on Wednesday, May 2. We will have a short business meeting, followed by our usual police report (which can include information you would not read in the newspaper) and then a presentation by our guest speaker a very responsible locksmith. He will discuss what types of locks you should have in your home.

You are invited to join us for this event, following which you can socialize, have a cookie and coffee and still be home by nine. It's a good time to meet many of our Mobile Watch members, who give of their time each month, driving the Village looking for trouble (and thankfully usually not finding any).

If you would like to join us on May 2, please let us know by calling our secretary, Kathy Strettar at 248.258.5350 or Dick Holloway at 248.644.2622. That way we know we will have enough cookies. The meetings are at 7:30 at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse (no charge).

And if you do not have a Bingham Farms decal for your vehicle, you can pick it up that evening. It is a big help to Mobile Watch and our police officers. It lets us know a car belongs to a resident.

We hope to see you on Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Mobile Watch

COMMUNITIES WORK FOR A CLEANER ROUGE

For decades, the Rouge River was mired in pollution, most from industrial discharges, some from upriver discharges of municipal sewage and some from people. In 1987, the Rouge River was declared one of the 43 most polluted rivers in the Great Lakes.

Following a court decree in 1991, municipalities started to work together to clean up the Rouge. This effort continues today and has evolved into a nationally recognized watershed based approach to stormwater management.

The Alliance of Rouge Communities is an organization of 36 municipal governments, three counties (Oakland, Wayne & Macomb) and the Wayne County Airport Authority. Bingham Farms is a member of the Alliance.

So what has the Alliance accomplished? Here's just a few of their successes.

*Prepared and distributed materials/information/ideas among members that have reduced the cost and increased the effectiveness of pollution control efforts.

*Supported extensive cooperative river monitoring to determine the effectiveness of various pollution control activities.

*Completed three comprehensive surveys of watershed residents to evaluate the effectiveness of public information and education efforts

*Documented measurable improvements in the Rouge River and restoration of beneficial uses.

Without this organization, it would be very difficult and expensive for the Village to meet the state-mandated storm water management program.

The Village also received two grants from the Alliance to establish "grow zones" in the Village.

Every person can do their part to reduce pollution into the river. One of the main ways is to use earth friendly fertilizers on your lawn.

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.

For a complete healthy lawn care package – tip sheet and report – check out www.socwa.org.

FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE HELP OUT

The Friends of the Rouge organization has helped the Village meet some of its educational requirements under the Village's SWPPI (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiative) permit. This is a state-mandated permit for all municipalities.

The Friends of the Rouge is a non-profit organization created in 1986 to raise awareness about the need to clean up the Rouge River in southeast Michigan.

Their primary program, Rouge Rescue, uses volunteers to help clean up and restore the Rouge. Held annually on the first Saturday of June (rain or shine) thousands of volunteers participate at 20-50 sites throughout the watershed.

The Rouge Education Project (REP) is a school-based water quality monitoring program involving elementary, middle and high schools. Students perform hands-on scientific exploration of the Rouge River including evaluating chemical, biological and physical parameters of water quality.

Another program is Rouge Restoration that consists of workshops for residents to learn how to take care of the land near water sources.

For more information, visit www.therouge.org.

Burglaries Cont. from Pg. 2

- Add auxiliary track-type locks, removable drop bars, wooden dowels, or pinning devices to windows and sliding glass doors.
- Keep valuables in a home safe, which has been secured to a floor or interior wall.

For additional residential burglary prevention tips please visit the Village of Bingham Farms web site. Also remember to report any suspicious activity to the Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department.

SOCRRA WEBSITE DELIVERS

It's an ever-changing world out there and that goes for how one gets rid of trash these days.

Several years ago, the Village entered into a contract with SOCRRA to allow Bingham Farms residents to take household hazardous waste to the SOCRRA facility year-round. As part of the contract, the Village's recycling would be taken to the SOCRRA facility.

Since then, SOCRRA has been working to expand its recycling program whereby residents can bring some recyclables directly to the facility. This includes those plastic caps from water and soda pop bottles as well as batteries.

For instance, did you know that

- metal and plastic containers should be rinsed out before placing in the recycling bin?
- used batteries should be placed in a zip lock bag and put in the recycling bin?
- shredded paper should be placed in a plastic bag and placed in the recycling bin?

To find out more, log on to the new SOCRRA website for regular updates on what can and cannot be recycled.

www.socrra.org.

Should you have any questions, call SOCRRA at **248.288.5153**.

**BINGHAM FARMS
RESIDENTS
FREE
HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENT
SHREDDING
AT
SOUTHFIELD TWP.
18550 W. 13 Mile Rd.
May 5, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

SOCWA OFFERS A NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS

Other than supplying water to Bingham Farms, SOCWA (Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority) provides many environmental programs for residents through their Healthy Lawn and Garden program.

This program is a one-woman show. That's Lillian Dean. She puts together programs, works with area hardware stores so people can have more earth-friendly ways to take care of their lawns and she helps produce videos that show homeowners how to be friendly to the environment.

The SOCWA website www.socwa.org has a wealth of information relative to lawn care and promotes programs that are open to the public. Recent programs include Master Composter and a Healthy Lawn Care Workshop.

There's also information on how to get rid of pests like grubs, slugs and black spots on roses.

The green movement is growing. It may be just the right time to get involved. If you have a lawn service, check out what type of herbicides and fertilizers they are using and ask whether they follow earth friendly practices.

This is a great way to help clean up the Rouge River.

ONLINE GOVERNMENT SERVICES

In an effort to ease the long wait lines, both the State and County now offer certain services online.

The State offers copies of birth certificates, license renewals, address changes all online. Fees still apply.

Log on to www.mich.gov/sos and click on "Online Services".

The County also offers online services for birth, death & marriages certificates (when filed in Oakland County), apply for a marriage license or research real property documents.

Log on to www.oakgov.com/clerkrod and click on "Online Services".

VILLAGE NEEDS HELP FROM RESIDENTS

The question on the minds of a number of residents is, who is littering the Village roadways? Unless one sees someone do it, it's impossible to track down the culprits.

So, what to do? This is one area where residents can help. When you are out and about, if you would pick up a few pieces of litter, it would be a great help. If everyone did this, the problem would be taken care of and the Village would look great.



If you should see someone toss anything, get a description of the vehicle and a license plate. Call the police and relay the information.

The number for dispatch is 248.626.5444 and the police office is 248.626.9672.

BITS N PIECES

- Get email blasts from the Village office or the Police Department. Log on to the Village website, and click on the link "Stay Informed" at the bottom of the home page.
- Latex Paint is not a hazardous material. Use kitty litter to dry it up and dispose with regular trash.
- Tax Bills will be mailed out on June 30. They are due by August 31st without penalty.
- Have rubbish out at the street by 7:00 a.m. every Thursday morning.
- Fences are not allowed unless around a pool enclosure.
- Dog runs totaling no more than 250 sq. ft. and no more than 4-feet in height are allowed with Council approval.

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 five acre park.

Get more information from the Parks & Recreation website at www.destinationoakland.com.

**LARGE ITEM PICK UP
JUNE 7, 2012**

**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 as many times as needed during the course of the season.

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, 2012 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 neces-

sary 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) notice of any public nuisance hearing that may be scheduled before the Village Council under Section 95.08."



WANT TO BE KEPT INFORMED AND RECEIVE SPECIAL ALERTS?

**Register by way of the Village
website at**

www.binghamfarms.org

Click on the "Stay Informed" link

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

Sign up today.

NEED COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS?

**We need volunteers to help pick
up trash along Village roads.**

Your hours, your schedule.

Call the Village office.

248.644.0044



LIBRARY GOES ELECTRONIC

“Lose the wait” at Baldwin with our new self-check machines! You’ll just need to scan your library card and then follow the on screen prompts to check materials out. Two machines are located near the Circulation Desk and one is located in the Youth Room. Give one a try on your next visit!

Celebrate National Library Week with a talk by Greg Sumner, author of *Unstuck in Time: A Journey through Kurt Vonnegut’s Life and Novels*, on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. Join us as this popular author and presenter discusses his thoughtful portrayal of one of America’s literary icons.



No late fees. No check-in. No leaving your home in the rain or snow. Learn how to download free eBooks from the Library to your Kindle, iPad, iPhone, Android Tablet, Nook, or eReader. Join us for “Introduction to eBooks” on Monday, May 7 at 7 p.m. To register, call 248-554-4650 or visit www.baldwinlib.org/calendar.

Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale will take place from Friday, May 11 to Monday, May 14. See www.baldwinlib.org/used-book-sale for full details.

You won’t want to miss our Summer Reading Kick Off on Friday, June 15 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.! Be sure to include the Library in your summer plans—fun for all ages! See you there!

Baldwin provides priority registration for Library programs to residents of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Bloomfield Hills.

SENIOR CENTER OFFERS MANY PROGRAMS

Now that you’re retired and looking for ways to fill your days, take a look at BASCC (Birmingham Area Senior Citizens Center). It has taken on new life.

Ah. The inevitability of the tax man in April. Did you know that BASCC offers Tax Preparation at a reasonable fee? Certified AARP Counselors are available to fill out your taxes. They are available on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. through April 17th. An appointment is necessary. Call BASCC.



How about joining a Golf League or a Bowling League? BASCC puts those together too. The Golf League Kick-off meeting will take place on April 4th. There are two separate leagues, one at Springdale Golf Course (meeting time 10:00 a.m.) and the other at Lincoln Hills (meeting time 1:00 p.m.). These are Birmingham courses and a season’s pass will be needed.



There are so many other programs at BASCC including line dancing, lunches, speakers, even travel opportunities.

Membership is affordable. The annual fee for single membership is \$30 and \$45 for a family membership.

So, if you’re at least 60 years old, why not join?

For more information, check out BASCC’s website, www.bascc.net or give them a call at 248.203.5270.

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.

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

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 7, 2012

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

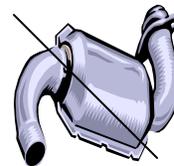
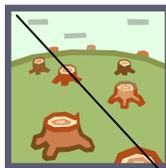
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- * 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.

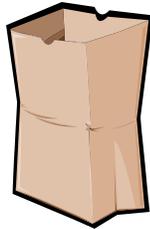
COMPOST SEASON BEGINS

Now that the snow has melted and spring is officially here, the weekly pick up of compost begins on April 5 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**. Compost placed in plastic bags go as regular trash as the plastic does not disintegrate quickly.

Tree limbs and branches should be tied into bundles no more than 4' in length.



VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING DATES

April 23

May 29

June 25

All meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

Birmingham

Farmer's Market - every Sunday May 6- October 28 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Municipal Lot 6 - North Old Woodward

Art Birmingham - May 26 & 27- Around Shain Park 10:00 a.m.

49th Birmingham Village Fair- May 31 - June 3 Shain Park

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

Movie Nite in Booth Park - June 22—7:30 p.m. Movie begins at dusk

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

Beverly Hills

Easter Egg Hunt - Beverly Park - March 31—1:00 p.m.

Park Clean Up - May 12 at 10:00 a.m. - Rain Date May 19 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Day Parade & Carnival - May 28 Beverly Park - starts at 11:00 am.

Rouge River Day - June 2

Free Household Shredding - May 5 - 10 am - Noon Parking Lot 18550 W. Thirteen Mile Rd.

WHAT KIND OF SPRING WILL IT BE?

It's almost as if we never had winter. So what does this foretell about spring?

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	Sunny to partly cloudy
May 4-7	Showers, then fair skies
May 8-11	Heavy rains Great Lakes
May 12-15	Thunderstorms Kentucky into Ohio
May 16-19	Showers, then fair & cool
May 20-23	Fair
May 24 -27	Squally from Wisconsin east
May 28-31	Increasing clouds

Time will tell if these forecasts are anywhere near accurate.

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

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

Website: www.binghamfarms.org