



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Spring, 2015

More Local Road Work Gearing Up

We just can't seem to get away from it. Road work, that is. New projects are scheduled that will create just as many headaches as previous road work. So get ready for the orange barrels and detours.

This season, it's Lahser Road from Thirteen Mile to Maple. This is total reconstruction along with drainage improvements.

Preliminary work is set to begin around May 14th. The bulk of the work will start after school closes in mid-June and that's when road closures are likely to pop up.

Detour routes will of course be Telegraph Rd., 12 Mile Rd., and Maple Rd. Evergreen will be an additional route.

Lahser Road will be open to Local Traffic, however, it may at some point in time become one-way access.

The entire project will last right through the fall which signals heavy traffic when school starts up in September.

Drivers are asked to exercise patience at all times. This project has

been delayed for several years due to the Thirteen Mile Rd Bridge Reconstruction project.

The Road Commission is heading up the project. Any complaints should be registered with them, either through email or phone.

Email

www.rcocweb.org/AboutUs/Contact_Us.aspx

Phone: 877.858.4804 weekdays from 7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. or **248.858.4895** after hours/weekends.



Large Item Pick Up Scheduled

Get ready. The Village's semi-annual, free, large item pick up is set for **Thursday, June 4th**. 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.

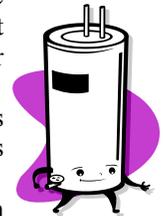
For new residents, the Village contracts with its rubbish contractor twice a year to haul away large items that normally are not included in the regular Thursday pick up.

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. 5



Special Elections Set for May

Many drivers are complaining about the poor surfaces on many of the roads in the State.

The Road Commission for Oakland County calculates that \$600 million worth of road projects is needed TODAY, just to preserve existing roads in Oakland County. Last year the Commission spent about \$50 million which is nowhere enough to maintain the massive road system.

So on May 5, there will be a state-wide ballot to come up with funding to repair roads in Michigan.

If passed, the proposal would increase the state sales tax to 7% from 6% and remove the sales tax from fuel

sales. It's expected to raise an extra \$1.2 billion a year for roads, \$300 million for K-12 schools, \$100 million for transit and \$95 million for local governments.

Bills tied to the vote would also make other changes, such as fully restoring the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families that was scaled back in 2011.

A second ballot issue will be solely for Birmingham Public Schools which is looking to secure approval for a \$66 million bond issue. The money will be used for



- ♦ Building and site upgrades
- ♦ Safety and security upgrades: the main entry of every school will have a new secure vestibule with an A/V access control system to restrict direct access into the schools.
- ♦ Technology upgrades: this includes new laptops, desktop computers, iPads, whiteboards and improving the district's network systems.

Con't. on Pg. 3

Check Contractors Working in your Home

The Franklin - Bingham Farms Police Department has noted an increase in reported thefts allegedly conducted by workers who are completing jobs inside homes.

Recently there were investigated incidents where construction workers, maintenance personnel and domestic helpers have allegedly stolen property from inside the homes of Franklin residents.

The Department would like to remind everyone that, before hiring a contractor, please check with your neighbors and the Better Business Bureau (<http://detroit.bbb.org>) for references. Also call the Southfield Building Dept. (248.796.4100) to make sure that the contractor is licensed, that he has pulled the proper permits and that the work is set up for the required inspections.



Note that in Bingham Farms, construction cannot begin before 7:00 AM and must stop at dusk.

Finally, take some simple actions to secure your valuables when workers are in your home; such as locking up jewelry, currency and other valuable items so that they are not visible and not easily stolen.

Car Trucking Buys New Trucks

The Village is fortunate to have so many residents participating in our recycling program. Week after week, most folks have their recycling bins out.

In an effort to keep up with the latest trends in equipment, Car Trucking has purchased a few new trucks to be ready for what is called "single stream" rubbish and recycling collection.

The new trucks have 2 separate collectors - one for regular rubbish, the other for recycling. This allows them to pick up the weekly collections in one truck. When they get to the drop-off point, one side is dropped off at the recycling area, the other side is dumped at another facility for waste removal.



A few residents questioned what was happening, fearing their recyclables were being mixed in with regular rubbish. They're not, at least for the time being.

Friends of the Rouge Annual Report

In 2014, Friends of the Rouge celebrated 28 years of service to the people, plants, and animals of the Rouge River watershed.

With you by our side throughout the past 28 years, we have:

- Engaged more than 54,000 volunteers in Rouge Rescue - *one of the nation's largest annual river clean-up events!*
- Removed more than 46,000 cubic yards of trash from the river and surrounding land area - *including 1,738 tires, 509 shopping carts, and 241 appliances/pieces of furniture!*
- Planted more than 29,000 native plants.
- Removed more than 9,800 cubic yards of invasive plant material.
- Touched the lives of 80,000 young people who have learned critical water quality lessons by participating in the Rouge Education Project.
- Trained thousands of volunteers, of all ages, to be Bug Hunters and Frog & Toad Surveyors.
- Begun work, with partners, to develop the Rouge River Water Trail.

The work that the Friends of the Rouge does directly benefits the Village of Bingham Farms, helping the Village meet its requirements under the State Stormwater General Permit.

More information about Friends of the Rouge can be found on their website at

<http://therouge.org>

**LARGE ITEM PICK UP
JUNE 4, 2015**

**ALL ITEMS TO THE
STREET BY
7:00 A.M.**

See Pg. 11 for details

President's Letter

The Village Council Budget Committee has reviewed our current needs, including engineer's projections for necessary road maintenance for the next five years. They have recommended a limited tax increase that will still necessitate pulling from our Fund Balance in order to have a balanced budget and enough to put us on track to fix the roads through 2020.

The property tax millage will rise from 7.9 to 8.4 mills effective July 1 of this year. The new rate is well beneath the current voter authorized cap of 12 mills and therefore, will not be subject to a referendum. Staff has determined that the new rate will still leave Bingham Farms property owners paying less than comparable communities.

The 8.4 mills rate will put revenue roughly on par with what owners were paying in tax dollars in 2009. The Village has been running on a shoestring budget for the last 5 years.

We've lost revenue from personal property tax exemptions and statutory sales tax elimination for the Village, while expenses increase yearly. Police

and Fire are the priority in the Village budget and already lean. We get superior service by sharing first responders with Franklin Village and relying primarily on volunteer firefighters. So, until taxable values recover, the only way we can cover expenditures is through a millage increase.

As President, I would be more comfortable with a slightly higher millage increase that would not dip into the Fund Balance and put us on an unambiguous track back to a stronger financial position.

However, the recommended limited increase reflects continued Council sensitivity for those residents, some retired and on a fixed income, who are still in a stressed financial condition. As property values increase, we are hopeful to avoid any further millage increases down the road.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Modell, Esq.
Village President

Mobile Watch Has ANOTHER Record Year

Under the guidance of the Franklin, Bingham Farms Police, the Bingham Farms Mobile Watch continue its daily vigilance over each neighborhood in Bingham Farms.

Mobil Watch is made up of your neighbors who devote their own time and effort to drive and observe and watch out for any unusual or questionable events or happenings. This effort helps to keep us all safe and hopefully free of the "BAD GUYS".



We meet once a month with the membership and the police to discuss the events of the past month. We are planning an Open House meeting in the near future for Bingham Farms residents to come and observe the functions of Mobile Watch.

We always meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Bingham Woods Club House located at 30760 River Crossing.

For any questions or information, please call the Village office at 248 644 0044.

Elections Cont. from Pg. 1

Bingham Farms voters cast their ballots at Bingham Farms Elementary School. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Absentee ballots may be obtained from Southfield Township at 18550 Thirteen Mile Rd.

Any questions, please call Township Clerk Sharon Tischler at 248.540.3420.

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR BICYCLE RIDERS

They rarely abide by the Rules of the Road and seem to come out of

NOWHERE



VOTE
MAY 5, 2015
AT
BINGHAM FARMS
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
POLLS OPEN
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Keeping the Villages Safe

The Franklin Bingham Police Officers are regularly seen cruising the streets of Franklin and Bingham Farms.

A major question might be what else do they do.

Police Chief Dan Roberts recently released statistics regarding police activity in 2014.

1. **1,453 tickets** were written (about 4 per day average).
2. Another **1,433 traffic warnings** were given (also 4 per day).
3. **4,719 vacation house checks** were completed (13 per day).
4. **3,264 after hours business checks** were completed (9 per day).
5. **150 arrests** were made.
6. **3,682 dispatched calls** were handled (10 per day); 554 full reports prepared.
7. **101,526 patrol car miles** were added.



On top of this, Bingham Farms has a very low crime rate. In 2014 there was only one residential break-in.

State Rep. Schedules Coffee Hours

The new State Representative, for Bingham Farms, Jeremy Moss, has set coffee hours for residents to meet with him and his staff.

It's an informal setting so residents can ask questions about pending legislation, get more information on state government or offer ideas and solutions for matters facing our state or local community.

Rep. Moss will be holding a coffee hour from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. on

April 27th

May 18th

June 15th

in the 3rd floor Boardroom of the Southfield Public Library located at 26300 Evergreen Rd.

Bingham Farms Fire Department Releases Year-End Stats

The Franklin Bingham Fire Department has released its 2014 annual response report.

Last year, the fire department responded to 577 incidents which is broken down by classifications.

- Fires - 9
- EMS - 292
- Hazardous Conditions - 91
- False Alarms/Cancelled - 152
- Others - 33

The Department is staffed with 2 full time staff, Fire Chief Tony Averbuch and Lt. Tim Adams. The remainder of the staff are volunteers who use their free time to make sure residents and building owners property are fully covered when an emergency arises.



These volunteer firefighters are totally trained just like full time, paid firefighters. Their generosity is incredible. Now, one of these firefighters has recently moved into the Village.

Total personnel station time committed was 4,450.3 hours up from 3,854.8 hours in 2013.

The average response time was 4.37 minutes versus 4.16 minutes in 2013. The 2/10ths of an increase can be attributed to what time of day the calls came in, whether there are simultaneous calls or firefighters are already on the scene of another call, etc.

The Department is always looking for people to volunteer. To find out more, please call **248.626.9862** or visit online at **www.fbfd.com**.

New Director, New Focus at BASCC

It didn't take long for new director, Christine Braun, to start beefing up the programs and vitality of the Senior program.

BASCC also has a new name. It's now called "NEXT" *your place to stay active and connected*.

So why Next? Because we all have something to look forward to, something *that's next*.

Whether you're a recent empty nester,

soon to be retired or you're celebrating an 80th birthday, Next inspires members to lead an enriched life. Next is about imaging a future full of possibilities.



Formerly Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC)

There are new programs, extended hours to attract more of the over-50 club.

Now, you can find exercise programs on Tuesday evenings, Wednesday movies and Thursday engaging lectures.

Did you know that BASCC has a golf league that plays at the two Birmingham Golf Courses. There's a Kick-off meeting on April 15th at 10:00 a.m. at Springdale Golf Course and 1:00 p.m. at Lincoln Hills.

Membership is \$35 for a single membership and \$45 for a family membership.

More information can be found on the new NEXT website **www.BirminghamNext.org** with programs and activities still available on BASCC's original website

www.bascc.org

Check them out. See what's "NEXT".

Happy Retirement Officer Dwyer

Officer Dave Dwyer joined the Franklin Bingham Police Department in November 1989. Over the years, he received numerous commendations and letters of appreciation for his diligence and helpfulness.

He is most noted for his 20 years of Service as the Mobile Watch Police Liaison.

Officer Dwyer had that soft demeanor when dealing with a stressful situation.

While he may be gone from the Franklin Bingham Police Department, you may still see him around up at Oakland County. He's taken a part time position as a Security Officer.

Dave will be missed. The Village wishes him the best in his retirement.



Vials of Life For Seniors

The Franklin Bingham Fire Department has put together a small plastic bottle, the contents of which will aid them to properly respond to a senior medical emergency.

The vial holds valuable medical information for a resident. It includes an information sheet and 2 personal profile sheets that hold critical information regarding medical history and current medications. Fill out the profile sheet, place the vial in the freezer and make sure it is easily visible when the freezer door is opened.

The vial also contains 2 display magnets that alert first responders that you have a Vial of Life completed. Place one magnet on your refrigerator door. Place the sticker adjacent to the a window by the front door.

The Vial of Life is available at the Village office. Stop by and pick one up.

These vials can shave off minutes for first responders trying to assess your medical situation in an emergency.



Having a Graduation Party - 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 are 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.



The Road Commission Needs at least \$600 million to Preserve Existing Roads

This year the Road Commission plans to spend \$55 million on road projects throughout the County. One of those projects is road resurfacing on Lahser Road between 13 and 14 Mile Roads. It is a joint project with the Village of Beverly Hills. The cost of that project alone is \$4.3 million.



However,, Dennis Kolar, Managing Director has pointed out that at current funding levels (without an increase in state road funding), nearly two-

thirds of RCOC roads will be in poor condition by 2018.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Michigan is dead last compared to all other states in per capita state and local spending on roads.

The longer Michigan waits to resolve the road-funding crisis, the more costly it will be, according to Kolar.

The Road Commission website has more information on the funding crisis. It also has maps indicating where current road projects are.

For more information, log on to

www.rcocweb.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.

The Fight Continues Against The West Nile Virus

Just when we thought the battle with West Nile virus was winding down, out comes the data that last year cases of West Nile Virus increased significantly from the prior year.

2012 closed out with more than 200 cases; 23 of those in Oakland County.

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

With the number of cases rising, it's even more important to protect oneself. The best defense is a good offense.

So take the following steps to lower your chances.

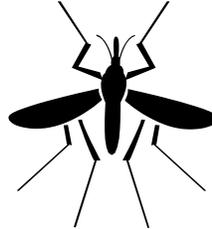
- ♦ Reduce areas where mosquitoes breed,
- ♦ Repel to protect against mosquitoes, and
- ♦ Report potential mosquito breeding areas.

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 mos-

quitoes 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.

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 the license plate number.. 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 in the Village office by August 31st without penalty. **Postmarks are NOT accepted.**
- 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. Must get Council approval.

CELEBRATE
EARTH DAY
APRIL 22nd



**BINGHAM FARMS
RESIDENTS
FREE
HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENT
SHREDDING
AT
SOUTHFIELD TWP.
18550 W. 13 Mile Rd.
May 2, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

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.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF CFL & LED BULBS

Did you know that CFL & LED Light Bulbs contain hazardous materials? Did you know those burned out bulbs can be returned to mega stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot? And it's free disposal.

While the Village participates in a Household Hazardous Waste Program with SOCRRA (South Oakland Resource Recovery Authority) on Coolidge Highway, it costs the Village \$30 per car. Recently, a resident dropped off 3 of these bulbs. That's all. So the cost to the Village was \$30.



For economic reasons, please wait until you have a number of other products before dropping off light bulbs to SOCRRA.

Better yet, just bring them to a local Lowe's or Home Depot store and drop them in the recycling bin at any time and there is no charge.

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(s) giving them 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, 2015 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 nox-

ious 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 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.

STUDENTS, DO YOU NEED COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS?

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

Your hours, your schedule.

Call the Village office for more
info.

248.644.0044



Activities abound at The Baldwin Library

Join us this spring as the Library remembers the 100th anniversary of World War I.

On Thursday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. Library Director Doug Koschik will lead a book discussion on Scott Anderson's Lawrence in Arabia.

You can also join the Fleur de Lys Chamber Ensemble for a presentation of the music of Ralph Vaughn Williams on Monday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Stop by for the Library's interfaith series, co-sponsored by the Inter-Faith Leadership Council of Metro-Detroit and with the assistance of the Race Relations and Diversity Task Force.

Upcoming presentations include *Pain and Healing across the Faith Traditions* on Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. and *WISDOM: Five Women, Five Journeys* on Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.



Try our Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale which runs from Friday, May 1 (Member Preview Night) to Monday, May 4. Details are available on the Library's website.

And Summer Reading is soon here! Join us for our Summer Reading Open House on Friday, June 12 from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

All of the Library's programs can be found on our calendar at calendar.baldwinlib.org and more can be found on our website at www.baldwinlib.org.

Woody Debris Management 101

In the past, logjams were considered a significant problem in maintaining the flow of water in rivers. New thinking discards this concept and promotes properly managed logjams actually help reduce erosion and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Experts recommend leaving most logjams in place.

The Clean and Open Method calls for removing man-made debris and cutting loose debris to create water flow. Use a handsaw or chain saw to open up the water flow. Loose debris can be left on the streambank to provide a habitat for animals. By using this method, no permits are needed.



Over the years, a few residents in the Village have asked whether there is any state or federal assistance to cover the cost of removing logjams and debris in the river. That assistance is only available for public spaces. The majority of the Rouge that flows through Bingham Farms is considered private land.

One might try to organize some volunteers within Bingham Farms and create a program to work in one area at a time.

For more information on this topic and other activities of Friends of the Rouge, log on to their website.

www.therouge.org

Fences Must be in Good Repair

It's been a rough winter and it looks like the temperatures are starting to creep upwards. With that, more folks will be out and about and winter clean up tops the list.

Some Village properties have fences either as decorative or enclosing a swimming pool or pond. It is imperative that all fences be maintained per Village ordinance.



Split rail fences are the most susceptible to damage whether from deer jumping over them or trees crashing into them. No matter the reason or the frequency, fences are to be kept in good condition.

Some fences have just fallen down over time. However, remnants remain. These should be taken down.

The Village is noted for its vast natural features, woodlands, rivers, flowers and fauna. As such, the Village Council has attempted to keep an open landscape and has limited approvals of fences.

During the spring, Village staff will be on the lookout for fences in need of repair. Fix them first so the Village does not have to get involved.

**REMEMBER:
PICK UP AFTER YOUR
DOG
WHEN HE LEAVES A
MEMENTO OR TWO
ON SOMEONE'S
PROPERTY.**



SHREDDING OFFERED BY
SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP



CONFIDENTIAL
HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENTS

FOR FREE

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015
10 AM TO NOON

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP PARKING LOT
18550 W. 13 MILE ROAD

WILL ACCEPT 5 OR 6 STORAGE SIZE BOXES

REMOVE DOCUMENTS FROM PLASTIC OR METAL FILE
FOLDERS OR BINDERS

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 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 4, 2015

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

Please Note: For the large item pick up ONLY, items such as couches, washing machines etc. may be placed at the curb as early as May 31.

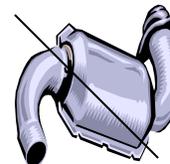
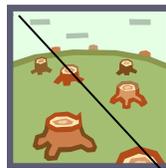
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- * Large appliances, furniture and hot water heaters
(Refrigerators & freezers must have Freon removed prior to pick up) (Doors must be removed)
- * Only small tree stumps
- * Brush and tree branches must be bundled and tied; 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.

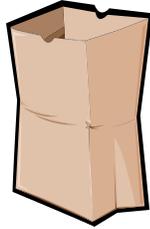
Compost season begins

Now that the snow has melted and spring is officially here, the weekly pick up of compost begins on April 9th 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 will go in with the regular trash as the plastic does not disintegrate quickly.

Tree limbs and branches should be tied into bundles no more than 4' in length. Car Trucking will not pick up anything that is not tied.



Happenings Around Town

Birmingham

Farmer's Market - every Sunday May 3- October 18 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Municipal Lot 6 - North Old Woodward

Art Birmingham - May 9 & 10- Shain Park 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

50th Birmingham Village Fair- May 28 - May 31 Shain Park

In the Park Summer Concerts - Wednesdays, June - August 7:00 p.m. Shain Park starting June 19th Concert Hotline 248.530.1650

Movie Nite in Booth Park - June 19 - 7:30 p.m. Movie begins at dusk

Fireworks - Lincoln Hills Golf Course - July 3 Gates open at 7:00 pm. Rain date July 5.

Beverly Hills

Park Clean Up - May 9 at 10:00 a.m. - Rain Date May 16 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Day Parade & Carnival - May 25 Beverly Park - starts at 11:00 am.

Rouge River Day - May 30

Southfield Twp.

Free Household Shredding - May 2 - 10 am - Noon Parking Lot 18550 W. Thirteen Mile Rd.

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING DATES

April 27

May 26 (Tuesday)

June 22

All meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

What kind of Spring will it be?

Goodbye wet winter, hello spring?

The Farmer's Almanac came out with its spring forecast and it's calling for a somewhat chilly and wet weather.

April

4th-7th. Fair, pleasant conditions. Lovely for Easter.

8th-11th. Showers across Illinois, Michigan area, points east, then fair.

12th-15th. Fair skies.

16th-19th. Showers and thunderstorms sweep through the Great Lakes area, then fair.

20th-23rd. Fair, then unsettled.



24th-27th. Showery, then becoming fair.

28th-30th. Turning stormy.

May

1st-3rd. Fair and quite cool. Dry track Derby Day.

4th-7th. Pleasant for Great Lakes area, points east, then showery.

8th-11th. Fair Great Lakes, points east.

12th-15th. Squally weather Wisconsin, points east.

16th-19th. Clearing skies.

20th-23rd. Showers Great Lakes, then fair.

24th-27th. Unsettled conditions spread into Ohio Valley. Showery for Indy 500.

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 2015. Deadline for submission of articles is June 15, 2015.

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