



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

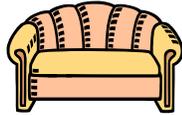
Spring, 2007

LARGE ITEM PICK UP SET FOR JUNE 7th

Have you been waiting for the free large item pick up? It's almost here. Mark your calendars for June 7, 2007. Have all items at the street by 7:00 a.m. that day.

Heavy large items like sofas and water heaters may be placed at the street the weekend before. This is the ONLY time that rubbish may be placed at the street prior to regular pick up. Regular trash may not be placed at the street before 7:00 p.m. the night prior to collection.

This pick-up is for getting rid of "large-items", not an opportunity to clean out the entire house. If a resident has excessive items out for pick up, it will be the discretion of the rubbish collector to take the items or not.



If you have any questions as to the quantity that will be picked up, call Car Trucking at 586-791-8480. If you are cleaning out an attic or basement, consider renting a roll-off container. Car Trucking will help you with this also.

Car Trucking will bring in extra manpower to handle the collection on June 7th. All you have to do is get the items to the street.

Large items may be placed at the street the weekend before the large item pick up. But remember,

Check the special section in this newsletter for a list of what is acceptable.

Refrigerators and freezers will be picked up ONLY IF the Freon is drained and the doors removed. Car Trucking is not licensed to remove Freon.

The Village has located two companies who have indicated they are licensed to remove Freon at a fee. They are John R Appliance 248-541-8696 and Mr. B's 586-759-0457. Mr. B's is drop off only.

Postcard reminders will be mailed to residents in May.

**VILLAGE COUNCIL
BI-ANNUAL ELECTION
TO BE HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007
VOTE FOR THREE TRUSTEES**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF SET FOR JUNE 2

The Village has set the dates for its Annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off for Saturday, June 2nd. It will run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This drop off is a time when Village residents may dispose of hazardous items in an environmentally safe manner. There are regulations regarding the types of materials that are appropriate for this program.

Just bring your items to the back parking lot of the Jamestowne South building located at 24255 Thirteen Mile Road. All you have to do is load up your car or truck, drive in and let the trained staff from EQ Industrial Services Inc. do the rest. You don't even have to get out of the car. Please have proof of residency ready. A driver's license or vehicle registration will suffice.

The Village staff field questions throughout the year on how to properly dispose of paint. Oil-based paints should be held until the Annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off.

Latex-based paints are water-based and are not considered hazardous materials once they are turned into a solid. To solidify the paint, pour some regular, inexpensive kitty litter into the unused latex paint can to dry up the paint. Once the paint is solid, leave the opened paint cans next to the garbage cans. This allows the rubbish collector to see that the paint is solid. It's simple to do and you don't have to wait for the Annual Drop Off.



This process WILL NOT work on oil-based paints.

New this year, residents will be able to dispose of old computer equipment, including hard drives, monitors and keyboards. It is highly advisable that information on the hard drive be erased prior to disposing of the computer.

As part of the Village agreement with EQ Industrial Services, residents may take drop off HHW materials year round at EQ's Detroit location at 2000 East Ferry Street. Drop off is by appointment only. Call 313-923-2240 to make an appointment. There is a charge to residents based on the type and amount of the products dropped off.

Should you have any questions, contact the Village office at 248-644-0044 or email us at info@binghamfarms.org.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM CONTINUES

A tree grows on Telegraph Rd. Well, more like 120 trees that the Village planted in the Fall. Most of the trees fared well over the typical Michigan winter. A few succumbed to the elements. As soon as the landscaper can get out on the medians, the damaged trees will be replaced and the remainder of the allocated trees will be planted.

The Village is taking an active role in changing the gloomy landscape of the Telegraph Rd. medians. People often commented on the sorry state of these medians.

The first phase of the project (tree planting) will be completed by the end of April. A second phase has been designed which will add perennial beds at various locations. This phase is dependent upon securing grants to help offset the cost.



The Village also put together a tree replacement program for areas throughout the Village that were visually impacted by the removal of dead or dying ash trees that were removed in the rights of way.

Residents are encouraged to replace ash trees on their property. There are several local sources to purchase trees and seedlings. Besides local nurseries, there are non-profit organizations that sell trees. Two sources are: GlobalReLeaf of Michigan (www.globalreleaf.org) and Oakland County Conservation District (www.oaklandcd.org).

WEST NILE VIRUS REMAINS A THREAT

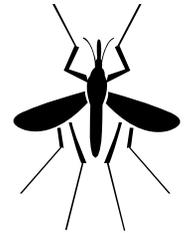
This is the fourth year of the battle against West Nile Virus. It appears that the programs in place for Oakland County are working as the number of confirmed human cases remains low. For two consecutive years, there have been no reported deaths in Oakland County attributable to the Virus.

That's the good news but the County Health Department emphasizes that people need to stay alert and follow simple procedures to protect themselves and their families.

Here's how Oakland County fared since the initial outbreak was identified in 2002.

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Oakland County					
Human Cases	214	3	2	5	4
Deaths	20	2	0	0	0
Michigan					
Human Cases	644	19	16	62	55
Deaths	51	2	0	4	7
United States					
Human Cases	4156	9862	2529	2949	4256
Deaths	284	264	100	116	165

The West Nile Virus is present throughout most of the United States. It is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain). A mosquito becomes infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. If a person is bitten by an infected mosquito, that person can contract the virus.



Oakland County continues to devote resources to preventing mosquito breeding on public lands, enhancing existing disease surveillance and promoting educational programs.

The public has an active role in battling the virus by reporting dead crows and other dead birds starting on April 1. If a dead crow or bird is found, call the County Information Hotline at 1-877-377-3641. This information will help identify potential risk areas. Dispose of the carcass carefully.

The County does not recommend wide-spread spraying to attack the virus. Chemical assaults against West Nile virus-bearing mosquitoes could do more harm than good to other healthy eco-systems.

The County is making funds available to help communities educate residents, and implement localized programs to kill mosquito larvae on public lands and do focused pesticide spraying of parks and other green open spaces. The County will not help pay for widespread spraying of neighborhoods.

The County strongly believes the best protection for residents is through preventive measures. A public education program called Mosquito Smarts lists steps every homeowner can take to eliminate potential mosquito breeding grounds.

- REDUCE areas where mosquitoes breed.
- REPEL through the use of protective clothing and appropriate spray.
- REPORT mosquito-breeding areas to proper personnel.

Here are some specific recommendations for property owners.

- * Avoid areas where mosquitoes may be present (shaded and wooded areas).
- * Limit outdoor activity at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- * Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants and use netting over strollers and playpens when outdoors.
- * Do not use insect repellent on children younger than two years of age; use repellents containing not more than 10% DEET sparingly on children 2-6 years of age; insect repellents containing up to 35% DEET may be used on older children and adults before outdoor recreational activities.
- * Eliminate standing water that collects in children's toys, buckets, tires, unused pools, boats and other containers.
- * Maintain window and door screening to keep mosquitoes out of homes.
- * Clean gutters.
- * Remove debris that can trap water such as old tires, paint cans and empty flower pots.
- * Turn over toys that may collect water.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Jane Bauer

What a cold, cold winter and thank goodness spring is here. The squirrels are chasing each other all over the deck and through the trees.

With warmer weather, we started our afternoon and evening walks. If you plan to become pedestrians, prevent driver trauma from near misses by wearing light colored clothing or reflective bands when visibility is poor. Give the drivers a break and stay close to the edge of the road. Be especially alert on the hills because there is not a lot of room for vehicles to pass with you on the road too.

We are now walking around bent over. This is not our regular posture. It's from picking up sticks and branches in the yard. Walking bent over is easy, even a cave man can do it; walking erect: now that's the rub. We love the rural and suburban settings in our Village. Moving here, many of us did not anticipate the amount of work required to keep our house and yard looking (reasonably) presentable. Now that we are old settlers, we are resigned to repairing the winter damage to our yards, shrubs, trees and fences. The arrival of flowers will ease the work. They are easy to see because we are still bent over.

There has been a lot of talk about the greenhouse effect caused by excess carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Our great loss of elm and ash trees from disease has been depressing. Why not help our Village and the ecology by planting replacement trees, vegetables, and a lot of flowers. Trees significantly reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by using the carbon to make cellulose and lignin, the basic components of wood. The wonderful by-product is lots of oxygen. Plants, such as annuals, vegetables and perennials also use carbon dioxide to make stems, leaves, flowers and fruit. A serendipitous side benefit: deer, squirrels, rabbits, woodchucks and chipmunks will thank you for diversifying their diet.

Did you know that the Franklin-Bingham Fire Dept. offers CPR Training to small groups? For more information call Firefighter Tim Adams at 248-626-9862

We are most proud of the great job the Franklin-Bingham Police and the Franklin-Bingham Fire Department are doing. Felonies and fires have dropped steadily over the past five years and we can thank them for keeping our villages safe. Wave when you see them. They are our friends.

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers for commissions and advisory boards. If you can help, give our Village Office a call or email us a short resume at info@binghamfarms.org. You may not be called to serve immediately, but your interest and availability are important to us.

NEW RECORD FOR MOBILE WATCH

By Mobile Watch

Kathy Streetar, now recording our touring activity, recently advised that the number of tours we took in 2006 increased more than 18% over the preceding year. That new record for Bingham Farms Mobile Watch was accompanied by word from Police Officer Dave Dwyer and Police Chief Pat Browne that we had no residential break-ins, "home invasions", during the entire year. We can't take total responsibility for that accomplishment, but we certainly fit in there somewhere.

However, if we are going to set new records in 2007, we need your help. Despite our success in 2006, there are still lots of tour times open. If you would like to help, a simple job not taking much time, we would be pleased to have you guest with us on the first Wednesday evening of the month at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse. Ask any member of Mobile Watch for more details, or call Dick Holloway at 248/644-2622.

VILLAGE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED

The bi-annual Village election will take place on **Tuesday, September 11th** at Bingham Farms Elementary School.

There are three trustee seats that will be on the ballot. Those three seats are currently held by David Leckie, Delores Tripp and Bill Gollnitz.

These are three year terms.

Candidates must file nominating petitions by June 19, 2007. Petitions are available at the Village office. A candidate must secure the signatures of at least 15 registered Bingham Farms voters.

The last day to register to vote in the September election is August

13th. Residents may register to vote at Southfield Township, 18550 Thirteen Mile Rd or at any Secretary of State office.



REMEMBER EARTH DAY ON APRIL 22, 2007

Earth Day is a day dedicated to the environmental health of our planet. Think about planting a tree. They remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and if planted near our homes, it can reduce the need for air conditioning and heating fuels.

The National Arbor Day Foundation is offering a great deal on trees. Check out arborday.org.

VILLAGE REGULATIONS THAT IMPACT HOMEOWNERS

One of the most treasured assets of the Village is its rolling terrain, lush vegetation and gurgling creeks and rivers. In an effort to protect these natural features, the Village Council has adopted regulations to establish guidelines to promote environmentally sound measures in home building.

An area of growing concern is the recent trend toward large homes, requests for parking pads and oversized driveways. The Design Review Board has reviewed requests for 20-foot wide driveways (equivalent to a 2-lane road).

To address the environmental concerns, specifications have been developed to address the environmental concerns yet provide a property owner flexibility in the design of the home.

Home Size

Maximum lot coverage is now taken into consideration when reviewing new homes or additions. This is to require a certain amount of greenspace based upon the size of the lot. It also provides protection to neighbors and avoid one house towering over another.

The maximum height of a home is calculated by a formula based on the relationship of the home to the allowable side yard setbacks.



Regulations also control the maximum lot coverage by all impervious surfaces. Impervious surface is defined as "a structure or portion thereof constructed of impenetrable material that repels water so as to prevent precipitation from infiltrating the ground or that causes water to run off the structure in greater quantities or a greater rate than existed prior to development".

Driveways

The Design Review Board has been granted the authority to review driveways, parking areas and walkways. With recent requests for parking pads, every effort is being made to address the environmental concerns of increased impervious surfaces with the desires of the property owners.

Semi-circular driveways are prohibited if the garage is within 75-feet of the front or exterior side lot line.

Only one auxiliary parking area is allowed on a lot and is limited to three parking spaces, not to exceed 600 square feet in size and must be screened so that parked vehicles are not visible from the street or adjoining property.

An auxiliary parking area may not be combined with a circular driveway as it creates an excess amount of impervious surface.

These restrictions have been implemented to protect the environment, maintain greenspace and reduce the amount of storm runoff into the waterways.

For more information, log on to the village website at www.binghamfarms.org and click on "Code Book" or call the Village office at 248-644-0044.

GOT WATER?

While some homeowners may consider a soggy area in the yard a headache, a few creative gardeners consider this an opportunity to create a rain garden. Rain gardens are popping up all over Michigan.

Rain gardens are basins where water runoff is collected. The water is filtered into the earth instead of carrying pollutants such as lawn chemicals into storm sewers (which lead to rivers and lakes). In addition, the plantings create a beautiful backdrop.



A rain garden can be any size, but to handle all the runoff from an average single-family home, it should be 150 to 400 square feet. Site it at least 10 feet from the house, preferably on a downward slope.

Find a natural low spot in your yard or simply dig a shallow dip. The bottom should be shaped like a saucer, leaving a large, flat area approximately 6-inches lower than the garden's edges. Add natural plants and watch a problem become a beautiful garden.

For more information go to www.raingardens.org or visit www.socwa.org and click on the link "lawn & garden".

NEW RECYCLING RULES

The recycling market continues to grow as manufacturers find more and more ways to utilize recycled materials.

The latest improvement is that now all plastic containers are accepted. All those wide-mouthed containers, such as sour cream or cream cheese containers now can be put in the recycling bin.

Now, no more separating papers. All papers, paperback books and boxes can be mixed together and put in the recycling bin. No hardcover books are allowed.

Those cardboard boxes may be recycled but must be broken down and tied together. This includes those large appliance boxes. The maximum size of the tied bundles is 2' x 2' x 1'.

This is to make sure the recycled bundle fits inside the recycling truck bins.

Household batteries may be recycled. Place them in clear baggies and put them on top of the other recyclables so the sanitation contractor can easily see what it is.



VILLAGE REMINDERS

Rental Property

If you're thinking about renting your home, the Village requires that a rental permit be secured. The permit provides the Village with pertinent contact information on the property owner and tenant. The permit also requires that a house inspection be performed by the Southfield Building Dept. which acts as the Building Inspectors for Bingham Farms.



Fences

There are strict requirements to obtain approval to erect a fence in the Village. The only fences readily approved are those required for safety, such as to enclose a pool.

Some fences in the Village were erected prior to the fence ordinance and therefore are "grandfathered in". That means they are allowed until they are taken down or not kept in good repair.

Periodically, the Village conducts tours and creates a list of fences in disrepair. Property owners are then notified. If a fence is in disrepair, fix it before the Village needs to step in.

Party Parking

Graduation season will be here in no time. That means an increase in parties and the potential for parking problems. If you're planning a big party and expect lots of cars, ask your guests or valet personnel to park on just one side of the street. This will provide room for not only residents to travel down the street, but also emergency vehicles.



Should you have any questions, call the Village office

Garage Sales

It seems that Spring brings thoughts of garage sales. Often residents will call to ask whether a permit is needed.

The answer simply is no. The Village does ask that homeowners make sure that any signs placed in the Village be removed when the Garage Sale is over.

As a courtesy to neighbors, designate one side of the street where cars are to park.

Driveway Permits

The Village requires a permit for all driveway work and a cash bond. Due to the amount of roadwork underway in the Village, the cash bond requirement has been waived until October.

Driveway Permits (cont.)

A permit is still required for all driveway work, including sealcoating and reconstruction. The cost of the permit is \$25.00. The permit should be pulled prior to beginning any driveway work.

Should you have any questions, call the Village office at 248-644-0044.

TIPS FOR A SAFE GRADUATION SEASON

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 in the Alliance of Coalitions of Healthy Communities once again is 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; parent 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.

Just don't do it!

COMPOST SEASON BEGINS

The seasonal pick up of compost (grass clippings, twigs, small branches) will begin on Thursday, April 12th and continue through November.

Compost may be placed in 32-gallon trash containers marked "Compost" or in brown paper bags that may be purchased at local hardware stores. Do not place compost in plastic bags, as they are not biodegradable. If they are placed in plastic bags, the refuse collector will put it with the regular trash and that defeats the purpose of collecting compost materials.

Compost materials are picked up with the regular rubbish collection on Thursdays.

BEWARE OF LATEST INTERNET SCAMS

The internet allows one access to a wealth of information and unfortunately there are individuals who find ways to use that information against you. Identity theft is growing at an alarming rate, a significant percentage stealing personal information obtained through the internet. It's called phishing.

The damage caused by phishing ranges from loss of access to email to substantial financial loss. This style of identity theft is becoming more popular, because of the ease with which unsuspecting people often divulge personal information to phishers, including credit card numbers, social security numbers, and mothers' maiden names. Sophisticated phishers often find personal information simply by accessing public records. Once this information is acquired, phishers may use a person's details to create fake accounts in a victim's name, ruin a victim's credit, or even prevent victims from accessing their own accounts.

It is estimated that between May 2004 and May 2005, approximately 1.2 million computer users in the United States suffered losses caused by phishing, totaling approximately \$929 million U.S. businesses lose an estimated \$2 billion USD a year as their clients become victims.

Be careful when responding to emails that are asking you to corroborate information in an account. No real company will email you to ask for a bank routing number, checking account number or social security number.

TIME TO CHECK HOME FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Each year the Franklin Bingham Fire Dept. schedules a day for residents to bring in their fire extinguishers to make sure they're working properly.

Mark your calendars. It will be held on Wednesday June 6th from 9:00 a.m. - Noon at the Franklin Bingham Fire Dept. in downtown Franklin.

The cost for the check-up is \$5.00. If the canister needs to be emptied and refilled, there is an additional charge which is calculated on the size of the canister.

If the extinguisher is 12 years old or more, **IT NEEDS TO BE REPLACED!**

The Chief has offered an early drop off for those residents who cannot get there during the regular hours. Early drop off is at 8:00 a.m. and pick up in the afternoon. Arrangements must be made prior to June 6th and the extinguishers must be picked up that day.

For more information, call the F.B.F.D. at 248-626-9862.



VIAL OF LIFE COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

The Franklin Bingham Fire Department is participating in a program to help people in an emergency. It's called the Vial-Of-Life.

This program is of great importance to those who require essential, life-supporting medications: diabetics, heart patients, those subject to seizure etc. In an emergency there is always the possibility the F.B.F.D. responding medical team will lose valuable time trying to ascertain both the medical history and medications that an individual is taking. Many times, the patient may be unable to communicate with the rescuers causing them to search through counters, cupboards and cabinets to find the information.



The Vial-Of-Life is a plastic vial provided by the Franklin/Bingham Fire Department at no cost. Each vial contains forms which should be filled out with current medical history and medications. The vial is distinctively designed to fit inside the door of the kitchen freezer. It also includes a magnetic sticker to be placed on the outside of the freezer door and window stickers to be placed on or near the entry doors. Emergency personnel are trained to look for these stickers.

The Village office has a supply available. Just stop in and pick one up. Supplies are also available at the Fire Department.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY SERIES SPONSORED BY BASCC

Are you looking for something different to do? Why not check out the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center series of seminars on cultural diversity?

The series will cover the African American, Asian-Indian, Chinese and Lesbian-Gay cultures.

April 10 - the African American culture will highlight guest speakers Debbie Macon (Race Relations & Diversity Task Force) and Rob Willis (attorney and member of the Southern Oakland County NAACP Executive Committee).

April 17—Asian-Indian culture with guest speaker Chaula Thacker (founder and artistic director of Nadanta which promotes the art and culture of the Indian subcontinent).

April 24 - Chinese—Laura Hung (Exec. Director, Council of Asian Pacific Americans).

May 1 - Lesbian-Gay—Cassandra Varner, (Communications Manager for Affirmations).

All sessions will take place at the BASCC Center at 2121 Midvale, Birmingham. They will begin at 10:00 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Call BASCC at 248-203-5270.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Shake off those winter blues and think spring! A great way to do that is to plan some outdoor activities. Our surrounding communities have many events that are open to everyone.

Beverly Hills

- May 12 - Beverly Park Clean-up
- May 19 - Rain Date
- May 28 - Memorial Day Parade & Festival
- June 2 - Rouge River Day - Clean-up

Birmingham

- May 12 - 13 - Fine Arts Festival
- May 31 - June 3 - Village Fair
- July 3 - Fireworks (rain date July 5)
- April 1 - July 21 - Birmingham Photographic Album Exhibit
Birmingham Historical Museum



Franklin

- July - Concerts every Wednesday evening

FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING AT SOUTHFIELD TWP.

Have too much paper to shred in your own shredding machine? Don't worry.

Southfield Township is once again teaming up with Absolute Shreds to offer free document shredding for residents of Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills and Franklin.

The truck will be in the parking lot behind Southfield Township offices on May 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

All documents will be shredded immediately and you'll be able to watch your documents being shredded on the truck mounted video cameras.

Residents are reminded to limit documents to three or four boxes.

If you have more than the maximum allowed or if you are a business, contact Absolute Shreds at 1-888-SHRED90 to schedule a low cost appointment.

For more information contact Southfield Township at 248-540-3420.



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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Permit No. 217

Village of Bingham Farms
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Bingham Farms, MI 48025
(248) 644-0044
info@binghamfarms.org

The Bingham Farms Post is published quarterly by the Village of Bingham Farms.
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clerk@binghamfarms.org
The next edition of the Post is scheduled for July, 2007. Deadline for submission of articles is June 15, 2007.
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

WIRELESS OAKLAND

Would you like to have free wireless internet service? Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is working on building a wireless network throughout Oakland County. He has established three goals for his Wireless Oakland project.

Goal 1 - Blanket the County's 910 square miles with wireless internet service.

Goal 2 - Address the County's "digital divide" and provide low-cost or no cost PC's and technology training to under-served residents.

Goal 3 - Develop a Telecommunication and Technology Planning Toolkit that will support continued high-tech investments in local government and promote the integration of those investments with local community character and quality of life.

The first phase of the build-out includes portions of Troy, Birmingham, Royal Oak, Madison Heights, Wixom, Oak Park and Pontiac. It is anticipated that service will be up and running in these communities by the end of April 2007.

The second phase of the build will be the remainder of the communities in Oakland County and will begin directly after completion of Phase I. The goal is to have the entire County up and running by the end of 2007 or early 2008.

The County has contracted with MichTel to build, deploy and run the wireless network. It will be simple to sign up for the free service. When the service is available the first time you attempt to access the network you will see a splash screen (web site) where you will create your own user name and password. You will then login with the username and password. This username and password will allow you to freely surf the internet. You will not need to contact MichTel or the County to sign up for the free internet service.

MichTel has released a pricing schedule for its premium services.

Base Service - Free (128Kbps download/upload speeds)

Silver Package - \$19.95/mo (512Kbps download/upload)

Gold Package - \$26.95/mo (1.54Mbps download / 386Kbps upload)

Platinum - \$39.95/mo (3.0Mbps download / 768Kbps upload)

For comparative purposes DSL operates at 5Mbps download/188Kbps upload. Cable broadband operates at 6Mbps download/768 Kbps upload.

To follow the progress of this project, log on to the County's website at www.oakgov.com and click on the Wireless Oakland link at the bottom of the page.



STATE GASOLINE TAX

The price of gasoline continues to push upward and people are starting to notice the amount of taxes charged at the pump. Those taxes include both federal and state taxes. In Michigan, the total taxes paid are 49.2 cpg (cents per gallon). The federal tax is 18.4 cpg and Michigan's tax is 30.8 cpg. The state taxes include a 6% sales tax and 0.875 cpg for an environmental regulation fee for the refined petroleum fund. The sales tax goes directly to the state as does the 0.875 cpg environmental regulation fee.

The state distributes the remaining 19 cents of the taxes collected to specific entities. This 19 cents yields approximately \$927 million annually. The dollar amounts that follow are based upon tax collection data for 2004-2005 (latest year available).

\$.06/gal or \$300 million is used by MDOT to build and maintain all interstate, US- and M- numbered highways.

\$.06/gal or \$300 million is spread among **83** county road commissions.

\$.035/gal or roughly \$170 million is split by **533** cities and villages to support local road projects.

\$.02/gal or \$100 million is dedicated to public transit.

Less than \$.01/gal, close to \$37 million finances road projects critical to economic development and compensates other state agencies which provide support for the transportation system.

\$.005/gal (1/2 of a cent), or nearly \$24 million supports local bridges, railroad crossings and recreational areas.



HAVE A CABLE COMPLAINT? CALL THE CABLE HOTLINE.

Are you having trouble with your cable TV service? Just can't get Comcast to fix the problem?

There are two ways to register a complaint with the Cable Board which oversees the cable franchisee. One is by phone, the other is through the internet.

The Cable Hot Line number is **248-336-9445**. Leave your name, phone number and a brief message. A part-time Cable Board employee will return your call.

A subscriber may also register a complaint on the Board's web site: www.birminghamareacableboard.org. Click on the complaint/comment link.

Once the Board receives the complaint, it is forwarded to a government liaison at Comcast. All complaints and Comcast's responses are logged, distributed to each Board member and discussed at the next Cable Board meeting.

Before filing a complaint with the Board, a subscriber must give Comcast the opportunity to resolve the problem. Call Comcast service at **1-800-266-2278**.