



# THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Summer, 2012

## ***THE PASSING OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT DAVID LECKIE***

On Friday June 23rd, the Village lost its President and long-time resident David Leckie. He passed away peacefully after a long battle with ALS. He was 63.

Right to the end he never lost his interest in the operations of the Village and always asked to be brought up to speed on what was going on.



David grew up in the Village and was a strong proponent of keeping the Village's natural feel. He loved the landscape, the heavy forested areas and its bucolic feel.

He had a long history of giving back to the community, beginning with his appointment as Bingham Farms member to the Cable Board in 1992.

He was then appointed to the Village Council in 1995 to fill a vacancy and served in that position until February

2009. David assumed the office of President in 2009 upon the resignation of President Mary Jane Bauer.

While on Council, he was the liaison to both the Franklin Bingham Police Dept. and the Franklin Bingham Volunteer Fire Dept.

He also kept a keen eye on Village finances, serving on the Budget Committee for the past five years. It was his goal to make sure the Village was sufficiently capitalized to weather downturns in the economy. That policy has kept the Village fiscally solvent in this multi-year economic downturn and residents have seen no reduction in major services.

Neighbors have all said the same thing about David; he was truly a nice guy and a good person willing to do anything to help out. Others in the community have commented that he was "a true gentleman".

## ***NEW VOTING DISTRICTS FOR BINGHAM FARMS***

Due to the population counts as part of the 2010 Federal Census, there are now new district boundaries for various elected offices. Michigan lost one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a result Bingham Farms remains part of District 9, however, with the new district boundary the current representative is Sander Levin (D).

On the State level, the Village will remain in District 14 in the Senate. However in the House of Representatives, the Village will change from District 40 to District 35 which seat is currently held by Rudy Hobbs.

And there's district changes on the County level too. Bingham Farms (along with Beverly Hills & Franklin) will now be included in District 14 whose current representative is former Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

## ***ROAD CONSTRUCTION SEEMS TO NEVER END***

Just when you think we'll get a reprieve from road construction, there seems to be yet another round coming up.

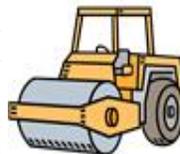
And so it is for the summer of 2012. Some roadwork will directly impact Bingham Farms.

While the bridge replacement on Thirteen Mile Road will not begin until June of next year, Consumers Energy has plans to do major work this year. Consumers will be installing a 16" high pressure gas line under the bridge.

This will entail closing the bridge from mid-July to mid-August. After assessing its options, Consumers believes clear cutting the area is the best choice in order to save some large trees.

Bingham Woods condominiums is working with Consumers regarding

restoration options as this project will require temporary easements beyond the existing right of way. The Association will be working with an environmental company to draw up options.



When the Road Commission begins work on the bridge reconstruction, there will be further clear cutting on both the north and south sides of the bridge. This phase of the project will have Thirteen Mile Road closed from June, 2013 through the entire summer.

The roadway will be raised approximately five feet which will mostly eliminate the current dip in the road.

A pedestrian walkway is also being designed alongside the bridge. This will provide pedestrians and bicyclists a safer means of passage. Federal grants will be used to fund the bridge project. The Village has committed to connecting the pedestrian bridge walkway to the existing sidewalk on Telegraph Rd. and to the sidewalk east of Bingham Farms Elementary school.

Detours will be established to redirect traffic around the construction area both this year and next.

But there's more road construction going on in the area for the summer of 2012.

Beverly Hills will be rebuilding the bridge on Evergreen Road between 13 & 14 Mile Roads. Evergreen will be

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## COUNCIL VACANCY

With the death of President David Leckie, there is now a trustee opening on Council. According to the Village Charter, this vacancy must be filled within 30 days.

This means Council will appoint a resident to fill the vacant seat, which person will serve until the next Village election currently scheduled for September 2013.



The qualifications for office are:

- Be 25 years of age
- Citizen of the U.S.
- Resident of the Village
- Interested in Village government

Anyone interested in this position, please send in a short resume and statement indicating your interest. Any questions, please feel free to contact the Village office.

The Village has one other opening on the Design Review Board. This Board was created "to preserve, protect and enhance the ecologically and historically unique environment and aesthetic charm of the village".

This Board reviews all plans for new construction, renovation or placement of structures or facilities.

If interested, fill out the application available online at [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org).

Serving the Village is a great way of giving back to your community. These positions usually are not time consuming and meet at most on a monthly basis.

### UPCOMING VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

8:00 p.m.

July 23  
August 27  
September 24

## YOUTH GROUP TO SOLICIT IN THE VILLAGE

Once again this summer, a group of young people from the Michigan Conference of Seventh Day Adventists will be in Bingham Farms doing "door-to-door missionary work" in the months of July and August.

They will be asking to place Christian literature in each home that will accept it and enable residents to give a donation to help further their missionary training.

Religious ministries such as this group are protected by the First Amendment, but are subject to soliciting during reasonable times and under reasonable restrictions. They must, however, obey any "No Solicitation" signs visible from the main door of a private residence.

As required by Village ordinance, this organization has registered with the Village and the police department. As such, they have fulfilled all the requirements necessary to "solicit" in the Village.

### SIGN UP FOR VILLAGE EMAIL BLASTS

Go to [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org)  
Click on  
Stay Informed icon

### Road Construction Cont. from Pg. 1

closed to through traffic for the duration of the project.

Also Lahser Road between 11 Mile and 12 Mile will be under construction from June through November to widen it from four lanes to five. Only one lane in each direction will be open to traffic.

It will be a challenge getting from Point A to Point B.

## ELECTIONS COMING UP

If all the political news stories haven't caught your eye, primaries are right around the corner and there are a number of candidates on the ballot.

The primaries will take place on August 7th. Bingham Farms registered voters vote at Bingham Farms Elementary School on Thirteen Mile Rd.

Winners of the primary move on to the General Election which is scheduled for November 6th.

Many of the elected positions have several candidates running. Even on the local level, there are plenty of candidate seeking office..

For example, the entire Southfield Twp. Board is up for election. In the primary, there are 6 people running for 4 seats. They are Dick Holloway of Bingham Farms, Roseanne Koss of Beverly Hills, Dan Nelson of Beverly Hills, Pam Rijnovean of Franklin, Randy Sax of Franklin and Bob Walsh of Beverly Hills.

There is also a contested race for Southfield Township Treasurer with two republican candidates, incumbent Janet Mooney and newcomer Marianne McLennan, vying for the position.

For the 6th Circuit Court Judge position in Oakland County, there are five people running for one vacant seat.

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## FIRE DEPT. ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

Every resident in Bingham Farms is invited to attend the Franklin/Bingham Farms Volunteer Fire Dept. Annual Meeting.

It's set for Monday, August 6 at 8:00 p.m. at the Fire Department, located at 32707 Franklin Road, right next to the gas station.



It might be the perfect time to explore downtown Franklin too.

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Delores Tripp, President*

At the June Council meeting, the trustees appointed me Village President due to the untimely death of David Leckie. David has served on the Council since 1995 and he had been President since 2009. His dedication and commitment to the Village will be deeply missed. We offer our sincere condolences to his family and friends. I will complete the remainder of David's term. Mel Ettenson was appointed President Pro-Tem.

Dave's passing however, leaves an open seat on Council. According to the Village Charter, that vacancy must be filled within 30 days. If anyone is interested in this appointment, please provide a short resume and reason why you would like to be considered. Council is scheduled to make an appointment at its July 23rd meeting.

On other issues, it's been quite busy in the Village. The Council passed a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013, but will draw from our Fund Balance.

What keeps our costs manageable is that we contract for major services: police, fire, library. Shared services is a cost-effective way to provide residents with quality services..

As discussed elsewhere, there will be road construction going on all

around us. The major one is the work Consumers Energy will be doing below the Thirteen Mile Rd. Bridge. Due to the large equipment, the bridge will be totally shut down for 4 - 6 weeks. Please be assured that resident safety is a paramount concern and our police and fire departments are working with surrounding communities to keep our residents safe in emergencies.

While the wait has been long, construction of a restaurant building in front of Bingham Center (30600-30800 Telegraph) will begin soon after final documents are submitted.

On a safety note, please remember to lock your doors at home and turn on your alarm system even if you're going out for just a few minutes. It takes thieves less than 30 seconds to get into a home.

Last but not least, the Village relies on volunteers to help run the Village. It's an opportunity for residents to become involved. Right now, there are very few names the Village can draw from to fill vacancies on either the Planning Commission or Design Review Board. The Volunteer form is online at [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org) or call the office 248.644.0044.

Have a great and safe summer.

## AND THE DAYS GO ON

Our spring session worked fine, with some educated comments from our visiting locksmith. None of our Village residents attended, but we did have some from Franklin Mobile Watch to learn all about good and not so good locks for our homes. It was an enjoyable evening.

Now we are preparing for our summer pot luck picnic with prize drawings for our police and fire department members and their families. Our members are now planning what "dish to pass" and Carl Muma and Dick Holloway are canvassing local merchants to see what prizes we can receive for the police and fire drawing.

We will have a good picnic dinner with ham, potato salad and all the trimmings that go along with them. The program, when members of the police and fire departments participate in a drawing, has always been a success as we have several merchants who seem to help us every year.

This is usually a members-only event; but if you would like to know more about Bingham Farms Mobile Watch and you have a "dish to pass", we could make an exception. Let us know if you are interested. Give Dick Holloway a call at 248.644.2622.

Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

## HAPPY RETIREMENT CHIEF BROWNE

It seems it was just the other day when Chief Browne started serving the folks in Bingham Farms as Police Chief. But actually, it's been six years.

Chief Browne recently announced his retirement from the police force effective June 30th.

The Chief has spent more than 40 years in law enforcement starting his career with the Detroit Police Department and then on to the Farmington Hills Police force where he served in various capacities for 27 years.

Under his tutelage, the Franklin Bingham department was reorganized

providing police officers with advancement opportunities. He also added several training programs and was able to piggyback on programs offered by the Farmington Hills police department.

It was not unusual for the Chief to show up in the middle of the night to help work major cases.

The Chief intends to use his new-found spare time to travel with his



wife. There are special places they want to see.

So Chief Browne, here's thanking you for a wonderful six years and wishing you a very happy retirement.

**SIGN UP FOR VILLAGE EMAIL BLASTS**

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Click on Stay Informed icon

## ***KEEP FIGHTING THE WEST NILE VIRUS THIS SUMMER***

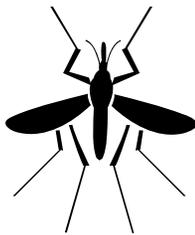
What a difference a year makes. Last summer, the record rains were perfect for a large mosquito population. Yet, so far this year, the limited rain is expected to hold down the mosquito population. However, this is no reason to stop taking precautions to avoid getting the West Nile Virus.

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

For most people the Virus is just a slight nuisance. Many don't even realize they've been infected. It's another story for older adults and very young children. The virus could cause major problems.

There were 33 human cases of West Nile Virus reported last year, up from 29 the year before.

The Oakland County Health Department believes that the low num-



bers of human infection is directly related to the prevention methods people are taking. The best advice — keep doing what you are doing.

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

Other measures that can reduce the risk of contracting the virus include:

- ◆ Repair all holes in windows and screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- ◆ Empty water from mosquito breeding sites such as buckets, barrels, cans, old tires etc.
- ◆ 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.)

The state and the county still monitor the situation by recording the number of dead birds. This often is an indicator that the bird was infected.

If you find a dead bird, report your finding to the Oakland County Health Division Hotline at 1-877-377-3641. Then, properly dispose of the bird and wear gloves to protect yourself from direct contact.

For updates on West Nile Virus, log on to the state or county website at:

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

## ***HOW TO DISPOSE OF LATEX PAINT***

It may not be tops on our to-do list, but latex paint can be set out with regular trash by just following a few simple steps. If there's just a little paint left in the can, open the top and let it dry up.

Otherwise, here's another way.

1. Purchase a bag of kitty litter
2. Open up the paint can
3. Pour kitty litter into the paint can until the liquid paint becomes a solid.
4. Place out with your regular trash.

Another environmentally friendly way to dispose of paint is to donate it to a local high school who could use it to paint props for their productions.

**DO NOT TAKE LATEX PAINT TO SOCRRA.** Latex paint is not considered a hazardous material when dried up. SOCRRA will take it but the Village is charged. One resident brought 30 cans to SOCRRA and **the Village paid \$90.**

Your help is most appreciated..

## ***How to Safely Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste***

It's convenient, easy and available all year long. Bingham Farms residents can drop off their household hazardous waste products at the SOCRRA facility on Coolidge Highway in Royal Oak. The contract between the Village and SOCRRA also allows residents to drop off electronic equipment, such as televisions (no consoles) and computer equipment.



Appointments are necessary. Call SOCRRA at **248.288.5153**. The staff will ask a few questions about what type of material you want to drop off and how much. You will be given a date and time for your drop off.

Put the items in your car, drive to the site at the scheduled time, drive up to the little building in the back and show proof of residency (driver's license will

do). The SOCRRA staff will do the rest. They will remove all the items from your vehicle.

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

Should you have any questions regarding acceptable materials, call SOCRRA at **248.288.5153** or visit their website at [www.socrra.org](http://www.socrra.org).

Remember the contract covers just household hazardous waste and electronics. It does **not** cover business hazardous waste. Federal and state environmental laws prohibit the facility from accepting this type of waste.

Businesses may call the Environmental Recycling Group at 734.437.9650 to receive information of proper disposal. They are located at 13040 Merriman, Ste. 299, Livonia.

## **BITS N PIECES**

### **Garbage Pick Up**

- Regular garbage pick up is scheduled for Thursdays.
- Have garbage out by 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays or after 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening.
- Maximum weight of rubbish cans or any other item not to exceed 60 lbs.
- Do not place garbage or compost at the street prior to Wednesday evening. It's not fair for your neighbors to look at that for a week.
- Questions - call Car Trucking at 586.791.8480

### **Grass mowing**

- It's best in the summer to keep your grass at 3" as this prevents the grass from drying out.
- Do not let grass get 8" or more as this will cause the Village to get involved.
- Weeds that reach 8" or more will also get the attention of the Village.
- Do not have your lawn company cut grass on Sundays. There's nothing worse for your neighbors to be outside and hearing the lawn mowers going.

### **Construction Work**

- Construction should not begin before 7:00 a.m. and should be completed by dusk. This means the start up of construction equipment.
- MDOT (Telegraph Rd) construction is exempt from this requirement.

### **Tree Removal**

- Homeowners are allowed to remove up to three healthy trees in a two year timeframe. This does not apply to dead or diseased trees.
- If you're re-landscaping and it involves removal of trees, call the Village office first to determine whether a permit is needed.

### **Summer Storms**

- If the power goes out, call DTE at  
**Cont. on Page 6**

## **BALDWIN GOES LIVE WITH AUTOMATION**

Baldwin went live with an automated sorting machine in early May. The automated sorter checks items in automatically as they are returned and sorts the items into broad categories. A video showing the sorter in operation can be viewed at [www.baldwinlib.org/sorter](http://www.baldwinlib.org/sorter). In order for the process to work smoothly, it is helpful if library users insert one item at a time. Users should wait for the green light before inserting the next item.

Baldwin will be your host at the Birmingham Farmers Market Kids Zone station on Sunday, August 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our young summer volunteers, the Baldwin Boosters, will be on hand to help visitors make a fun project. Stop by to say hello and see what's happening at the Library! Save the date!

This year's Books & Bites will take place on Thursday, October 18, starting at 6 p.m. It will feature food and drink from several fine restaurants. Proceeds from this event will support Baldwin's services and programs for teens and young adults. Individual tickets will go on sale Tuesday, September 4. Sponsorship opportunities are now available and include tickets to the event. See [www.baldwinlib.org/booksbites](http://www.baldwinlib.org/booksbites) for details.

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

**REMEMBER TO LOCK YOUR  
DOORS AND  
TURN YOUR HOUSE ALARM ON  
EVEN IF YOU'RE GOING OUT FOR  
A SHORT TIME  
IT TAKES THIEVES LESS THAN 30  
SECONDS TO BREAK IN.**

## **HELP WANTED**

Bingham Farms is a serene place to live. Residents enjoy walking, running and biking throughout the Village. What isn't enjoyable is looking at the litter on the side of the road.

Whether it's landscape crews, construction workers or even teens, the mess that is created is unsightly.



The Village does not have the budget to handle this problem. So it would be fantastic if Village residents could just take a small garbage bag and pick up whatever litter they see.

If everyone picks up just a little bit, it will keep the Village beautiful.

And if you have any teens in your house who need community service hours, let the Village office know. The Village will provide certification of their participation.

Thanks for your help.

### **Elections Cont. from Pg. 2**

In addition to the elected seats, there will be two millage proposals; one for the DIA (Detroit Institute of Arts) to levy a tax of .2 mills (\$.20 per \$1,000 taxable value) on real and personal property. The millage is for continuing support of art institute services for students, residents of Oakland County. This is a new millage.

The second millage is for the SMART system. This is a renewal of .59 mills (\$.59 per \$1,000 taxable value) on real and personal property. It is to provide support of a public transportation system serving the elderly, disabled, and general public of Oakland County. This is a two year renewal for years 2012 & 2013.

A sample ballot is now on the Village's website  
[www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org).

## ***COUNCIL ADOPTS A BALANCED FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 BUDGET***

We're still not out of the woods yet as far as the economy is concerned. But the Village Council recently passed a **balanced** budget for FY 2012-2013. The budget remains bare bones, but still maintains funding for critical services such as police and fire.

The Village is still seeing declines in most taxable values, especially in the business district and no growth in revenue sharing payments (that portion of revenues the Village receives from the State in lieu of a Village sales tax).

The majority of Village revenue comes from property taxes (personal & real), fees from construction and fines from traffic violations.

Administrative	\$ 403,301
Engineering	6,000
Road Improvements*	0
Library	94,107
Contingency	30,000
Public Safety	1,021,874
Legal	20,000
Rubbish	<u>91,529</u>
 Total	 \$1,666,811

\*No new road reconstruction programs are planned for FY 2012-2013.

To balance the budget, the Council voted to raise the millage rate to 7.7 mills, from the 7.4 mills levied last year. This increase however, does not cover the entire shortfall. The Village will dip into its Fund Balance for approximately \$70,000. This still leaves the Fund Balance well within acceptable state-required guidelines.

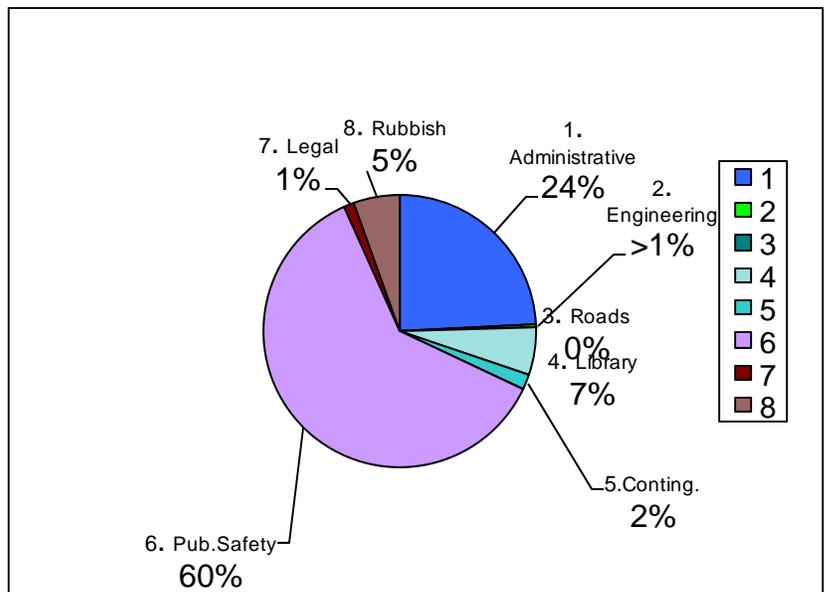
While revenues are decreasing, the Village has been unable to avoid increases in expenses.

- The Fire Department budget increased 2.2% to continue funding the capital equipment account which covers costs for new fire trucks.
- The police department reflects a

2.5% increase in expenditures, primarily due to contractual obligations.

- Cost of the Baldwin Library contract actually decreased slightly from last year.
- The Administrative line item is up from last year primarily due to the cost of the Village's bi-annual audit and increases in legal and planning.

Below is a snapshot of Village budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. The major cost components of the budget include Public Safety (Fire & Police), Roads (maintenance & reconstruction) and Administration (rent, audit, utilities, insurance, salaries etc).



### **TAXES ARE DUE**

**BINGHAM FARMS  
VILLAGE TAX  
Due without penalty by  
August 31, 2012**

**SOUTHFIELD TWP.  
SUMMER TAX  
Due without penalty by  
September 14, 2012**

### **Bits n Pieces Cont. from Pg. 5**

- 800.477.4747.** Call, even if your neighbor has already called it in. It helps DTE estimate how many customers are out of power.
- When a tree falls into the road, the Village will cut the tree so vehicles can get through.
  - If the tree is in the right of way, the Village will remove the tree.
  - If the tree trunk is on private property, the property owner is responsible for removing the tree.

**VILLAGE OFFICES**  
*will be closed on*  
**July 4th and**  
**September 3 - Labor**  
**Day**

## OFFICERS RECEIVE AWARDS

Congratulations to our police officers and fire fighters who were recognized for exemplary service at an Awards Presentation in May. A number of civilian citations were also presented.

### Certificate of Commendation (Exceptional Performance)

- Det. Lt. William Castro
- Sgt. James Hirschfeld
- Officer Michael Bastianelli
- Officer Michael Daisley
- Officer David Dwyer
- Reserve Officer Ron Berris
- Reserve Officer Michael Sanders
- Capt. Peter Kelly
- Capt. Richard Koslowski
- Firefighter Peter Longworth
- Firefighter Mark Petersen
- Firefighter Kevin Kelly

### Citations (Initiative in the performance of difficult or trying assignments)

- Chief Pat Browne
- Det. Lt. William Castro
- Sgt. Brian Crane
- Officer David Dwyer
- Officer Steven Goulet
- Officer Michael Vanlacken

### Professional Service (Outstanding Contributions to law enforcement)

- Reserve Officer Ron Berris

### Chief's Citation (outstanding service to the Police Dept. by sworn, auxiliaries and civilians)

- Det. Lt. William Castro
- Sgt. Brian Crane
- Officer Mark Dyjewski
- Officer Steven Goulet

### Unit Citation (Performance of high degree of initiative, determination and cooperative effort in difficult tasks)

- Officer Michael Bastianelli
- Officer Michael Daisley
- Officer Mark Dyjewski
- Officer Michael Vanlacken
- Reserve officer Capt. Michael Melekian
- Reserve Officer Lt. William Ewald
- Reserve Officer Ronald Barris
- Reserve Officer Kevin Crane
- Reserve Officer Joseph Kovacs
- Reserve Office Alan Nieman
- Reserve Officer Michael Sanders
- Fire Lt. Timothy Adams

### Civilian Citation (non-sworn individuals who assist the department in combating crime)

- Senior Police Clerk Susan Schultz
- Police Clerk Virginia Roberts
- Thomas Herpel

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Birmingham

**In The Park Concerts** - 7 p.m. Shain Park Every Wednesday

**Farmer's Market** - Municipal Parking Lot #6 Old Woodward, (south of Maple) every Sunday 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. thru October

**Fireworks** - July 3 Lincoln Hills Golf Course - Rain date 7/5

**Family Movie Night** - Booth Park 7:30 p.m. July 20 & August 10

**Day on the Town** - downtown July 23 9:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.

**Street Art Fair** - Sept. 22 & 23rd

### Franklin

**Music on the Green** - downtown Franklin- evenings July 11- Aug. 1 at 7:00 p.m. weather permitting

**Movies on the Green** - downtown Franklin - 8:30 p.m. Aug. 1, 8 & 15th

**Labor Day Parade** - downtown Franklin - Sept. 3

**Cider Mill** - Open from Sept. 1 - Nov. 24

### General

**Woodward Dream Cruise** - August 18

**SIGN UP TODAY FOR EMAIL BLASTS**

**LOG ON TO [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org)**

**Click on the Stay Informed icon at the bottom of the Homepage**

## CABLE TV PROBLEMS?

Having problems with your Comcast or AT&T TV service or have a question about your bill?

COMCAST 1-800-266-2278

Local Office 248-549-2100

Local office located at 4500 Delemere Blvd, Royal Oak (south off 14 Mile Rd., east of Coolidge)

AT&T 1-800-288-2020

**Birmingham Area Cable Board Complaint Line: 248.336.9445**