



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Summer, 2015

Summer Road Work Mapping

If you thought past summer road projects were tough to get through with all the orange barrels, this summer may not be any better.

The major construction project is the one on Lahser Road between 13 Mile and Maple Roads. The first phase of this project (14 Mile to Maple) began on May 11th but has intensified since the schools have closed for the summer. This portion of the road is now closed. Local traffic may only enter from Maple Road.

The second phase of the project will be 14 Mile to 13 Mile. This will begin after Phase 1 is completed.

The entire project is expected to be completed in November.

And then there is the roundabout project on Evergreen Road in Southfield. This one is set to be completed by the end of July.

This project is a total reconstruction of a one-mile segment of

Road from 10 Mile to 11 Mile Rd.

It will turn the existing six and seven-lane road into a four-lane boulevard with a roundabout at Evergreen and Civic Center Drive and a roundabout at Evergreen and the north Municipal Campus driveway

Both roundabout projects have entered their second season of construction.

Follow the posted detours.

As for road work in the Village, nothing is scheduled at this time. However, the Village is expected to go out for bids for base repair work on a portion of Bingham Rd. and a portion of Bristol Ln.

Realistically, this work will



be scheduled for early fall. With this timeframe, it hopefully won't be contributing to the traffic issues.

Remember the old saying "when the going gets tough, the tough get going" The roads in Michigan are in tough shape. So these types of projects are no where near finished.

UPCOMING VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

7:30 p.m.

July 27

August 24

September 28

Long Time Resident Is Laid To Rest

In April, the Village lost one of its long standing volunteers. Dick Holloway passed away peacefully at his home after a long illness.

But Dick never let the grass grow under his feet. Shortly after moving into the Village in the mid 70s, he immediately became active in the Village, serving on the Planning Commission, the Design Review Board and Village Council.

As a Trustee, he spearheaded the drive to bring city water and sewer into the Village, and worked with the County on financing the bonds. He served as Village President from 1981-1989. During that time, he spearheaded the drive to pave the Village roads. It was a bit contentious with residents split on the concept. Some wanted to main-

tain the rural feel of the Village, others not so much as they were tired of the dust on their cars and in their homes.

During his tenure as President he worked with developers which created Bingham Woods condominiums.

Dick played by the rules and wasn't shy about talking to people who might be in violation.

He most recently headed up Mobile Watch, spearheading membership drives and keeping it a viable organization.

And if that wasn't enough, he was a Southfield Township Trustee intermittently since 1996.

He loved this Village and worked diligently, guiding it for forty years.

Rest in peace Dick.



June 27, 1929– April 19, 2015



Next, your Senior Center, is the place to be for programs, services and FUN, all summer long.

Every Thursday evening at 6:00 pm, *Next – Your Place to Stay Active and Connected*, formerly BASCC, hosts a speaker series like no other in the area. Since its inception, this ongoing series has hosted professors from local universities covering topics such as history, art, science, literature and politics, along with world renowned experts in religion, folklore, social and economic issues, and much more. Going forward, their lineup becomes even more impressive hosting such speakers as:

July 9: Worlds at the Edge of Our Solar System

David Gerdes, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Physics at University of Michigan

July 16: A History of Detroit in Words and Pictures

Stephen Vogel, nationally recognized Professor of Architecture, from University of Detroit Mercy

July 23: How to Look at Art

Wendy Evans, an adjunct lecturer on Art and Art History at Wayne State, Center for Creative Studies, U of M Dearborn, and the DIA

July 30: Seniors Relationship to Finances

Dr. Peter Lichtenberg, the Director of both the Institute of Gerontology and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute and the Founding Director of the Wayne State University Lifespan Alliance.

August 6: Life's Ratchet

Dr. Peter Hoffman, professor of Physics and Associate Dean in Wayne State's Department of Physics and Astronomy and author of *Life's Ratchet*.

August 27 King Arthur: Myth, History and Legend

Professor Rayne Allinson, of University of Michigan-Dearborn

For more information on these and the other great opportunities for fitness, arts, travel, and lifelong learning, stop by **Next** at 2121 Midvale in Birmingham, or visit www.BirminghamNext.org. Or, just call us at 248.203.5270 .

What's Council Been Working On?

FOIA Regulations

Starting July 1, Michigan's legislature has mandated municipalities adopt a new Freedom of Information Act Policy (FOIA). The Village Council at its June 22, 2015 meeting adopted the new policy and guidelines which can now be found on the Village website www.binghamfarms.org.

There are a slew of new forms ranging from the actual request for public documents, to appeals for denial and a 6-page cost calculation form time spent on researching a request to making copies.

The Village has always complied with FOIA requests in a timely manner. Unfortunately, there were a few municipalities that did not. Thus, the new guidelines.

Master Plan Update

The Council also adopted the 2015 Updated Master Plan developed by the Planning Commission and its Planner, Dave Birchler of Clearzoning.

Medical Marijuana Ordinance

Council also passed a Medical Marijuana Ordinance that restricts any pot growing to residential areas. All caregivers and users must register with the Franklin/Bingham Police Dept. This is in compliance with the Medical Marijuana Law passed by voters in 2008.

Bus Shelters

Another item on Council's agenda is looking into the possibility of providing bus shelters at the most used pick up and drop off points. The Village is working with SMART to see if there is any funding available.

TAXES ARE DUE

BINGHAM FARMS VILLAGE TAX

**Due without penalty by
August 31, 2015**

SOUTHFIELD TWP. SUMMER TAX

**Due without penalty by
September 14, 2015**

The President's Corner ***Jeffrey D. Modell Esq.***

So what does the Village Council do? Your elected representatives, who all are volunteers, primarily oversee Village budgets and expenditures. We watch the collection of taxes as well as the work of the police and fire departments.

We approve local road projects and coordinate with the Road Commission for Oakland County on adjacent major roads, including the new 13 Mile Road bridge.

The Council also is the final approval step for residential and commercial development.

The Village has just 1135 residents, so has a fairly modest potential tax base; however the office strip along Telegraph Road provides an additional revenue source. Sharing a police department and volunteer fire department with Franklin also helps keep our expenses in check.

Additionally we have a lean Village staff – a Village clerk who also acts as a Village Manager, a full time Treasurer expert in the arcane field of municipal accounting, and a part time Administrative Assistant. We have experienced a bit of turn-over in the staffing since our last two part-timers left for full-time jobs.

The commercial district, thanks to two dedicated full-time police officers paid for through a special assessment, has a lower crime rate than the adjacent

commercial properties to the north in Bloomfield Township. The SAD was instituted in July 1986 when there were 126 various crimes and just 17 in 2014.

A lot of the Village work is performed by the Planning Commission, another group of volunteers, and the Design Review Board. The Council just approved the Planning Commission's revised five-year Village Master Plan which is available on our website. The gist is we would like to maintain the elements that make the Village attractive, but also see some potential for higher density residential development in a few areas that border Telegraph Road.

Unfortunately, through the years, a number of the incoming inquiries have been requests to put up uses contrary to the Master Plan that would have a major negative impact on the totality of the Village's character and potentially public safety.

Council, in coordination with the Planning Commission, is responsible for approving the outlot dining venues in the commercial district.

Thanks to the asymmetric nature of State law, it will be awhile before they contribute materially to our revenues, despite the immediate impact on my waistline from the excellent cookies from a certain sub-shop.

We Are "At It" Again

Although summertime is usually a slow, leisurely time, your Mobile Watch does not take a break.

Bingham Farms Mobile Watch is a group of Bingham Farms residents that devote a small part of their personal time to keep our village safe.

We sign up to take our turn to spend an hour and a half driving and observing the neighborhoods. If any unusual events, cars or people are observed, it is reported directly to the Franklin Police Dept. The police then take it from there by immediately responding to the area.

We are very pleased that recently four new members have joined our group. We welcome and encourage any Bingham Farms resident to join us.

Mobile Watch meets once a month on the first Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are held at the Bingham Woods clubhouse located at 30760 River Crossing. These meetings are quite informative as one of the Franklin Bingham Farms police officers provides a report on activity in both Bingham Farms and Franklin.

These meetings also provide an opportunity for folks to meet other folks. Stop by and check us out sometime.

Our next meetings will be on

July 1

August 5

September 2

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

Fire Dept. ***Annual Meeting Set***

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

It's set for Monday, August 3 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.



***SIGN UP FOR
VILLAGE EMAIL BLASTS***
***Go to
www.binghamfarms.org
Click on
Stay Informed icon***

Youth Group To Solicit

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.

State Fireworks Law

As the 4th of July approaches, here are some reminders about the sale and use of fireworks in Michigan:

The Michigan Fireworks Safety Act *permits* the sale and use of flying and exploding fireworks. The Act requires that *licensed* vendors are required to verify that all purchasers of the exploding and flying fireworks are at least 18 years of age; however, there is no age restriction on the user of the fireworks.

Some of the fireworks that are now legal under the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act include Roman candles, firecrackers, bottle and sky rockets, missile type rockets, aerial spinners, reloadable shell devices and singe tub devices with rapport.

A Bit about Birdfeeders

Birdfeeders. They’re fun to have. It’s enjoyable to see the birds fly over and peck at the bird seed.

However, there’s actually a downside to these feeders. They are a draw for various animals. It’s kind of like the food chain.

The birds eat the seeds. But they’re messy creatures and a lot of that seed drops to the ground.

This attracts other small animals such as squirrels and rabbits. It’s easy pickings for them.

Now those small guys are an attraction for larger prey like coyotes.

This doesn’t mean people should stop feeding birds...just think about the location and size of the bird feeders.

With the growing population of wildlife, it’s always a good idea to make sure your yard does not become a hunting ground for larger animals.



Some fireworks remain illegal and cannot be sold or used in Michigan, and those include Cherry Bombs and M-80's. In addition, fireworks cannot be used on public property (schools, roadways, etc.), and the user of fireworks cannot be under the influence of intoxicants.

The state law allows fireworks to be used any time, day or night, the day before a national holiday, the day of a national holiday, and the day after the holiday.

If you plan to light fireworks

Cont. on Pg. 9

Water Rates On the Rise

The good news is that Southeast Michigan residents are doing a great job in lowering their water usage.

The bad news is the cost of water is going up because our water rates are based upon pre-established water sales.

So, no matter how we conserve, if the amount of water purchased from Detroit Water and Sewerage doesn’t equal the contract amounts, a shortfall exists.

So, beginning July 1, 2015, Bingham Farms residents will see an 11% increase in water rates.

On the sewer side, the increase will be 8%.

There are a few homes in Bingham Farms that still use well water. They are assessed a flat rate quarterly sewer charge of \$104.15.

Keep Your Lawn Healthy

Your lawn survived a wicked winter and a very rainy spring. Now take steps to keep the lawn healthy by following these fertilizer tips.

- **Mulch** your grass clippings. Let short clips fall back on the lawn. Clippings are a source of nitrogen.
- **Cut high.** Leave 3 inches on the grass blade after cutting. Tall grass promotes root growth and shades out weeds.
- **Rake** compost into the lawn. Rake 1/2 inch of compost into an established lawn to build soil fertility.
- **Water the lawn** to minimize stress. A green lawn in Michigan needs .5 to 1.5 inches of water per week. Don’t soak your lawn; watering should not produce puddles. Lawn dormancy is a natural response to drought. However, some water may be necessary during an extended drought of more than a month.



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 it from drying out.
- Do not let grass/weeds get to 8" or more as this will cause the Village to issue a violation.

Construction Work

- Construction should not begin before 7:00 a.m. and should be completed by dusk. Do not start up equipment until 7:00 a.m.



Contractor Signs

- Do not allow any contractor doing work on your property to put up their signs. This is considered advertising and is prohibited by Village ordinance.

Summer Storms

- If the power goes out, call DTE **800.477.4747**. Call, even if your neighbor has already called it in. It helps DTE estimate how many customers are out of power.



Baldwin Library Summer Programs

Water Rockets: A Father and Child Experiment

Saturday, July 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Registration Required*

Join Marc "Rocketman" Center for some indoor-outdoor fun. Participants should bring two empty 2-liter soda bottles. Registration is limited to one session per child.

Wrap up the Heroics of Summer Reading at the Library

Haven't joined the Summer Reading program at Baldwin yet? There's still time! Read books to win prizes! Then join us for our Finale events in August.

Youth: Baffling Bill the Magician's *Every Hero Has a Story* Magic Show
Monday, August 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Registration Required*

Teen: Summer Reading Awards Celebration with the Exotic Zoo
Thursday, August 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Adult: Book Club Selection Reception and Olive Oil Tasting from Old World Olive Co.

Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m.

First Grade/First Library Card

Saturday, August 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Registration Required*

Youth staff will present a special program for students entering First Grade, including the opportunity to get their very own library card.

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.

A Senior Must Have

They are called Vial of Life. The vials contain pertinent medical information to which emergency personnel can have immediate access.



The vial contains a medical sheet that identifies medical history and current medications. Fold the sheets and place them in the vial. Seal the vial and place it in your freezer, making sure the vial remains easily visible when the freezer door is opened.

Place a magnet on your refrigerator door and place the sticker adjacent to the doors of your home.

When emergency personnel see the stickers, they know you have a vial of life in your freezer and can immediately access the information.

The Village office has a supply of vials, so stop in and pick one up.

Have any questions? Call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

When To Pull A Permit?

It's great to see all the activity in the Village with people working on landscaping, or making changes to the exterior of their home.

Much of the work property owners undertake probably does not require a permit. However, any changes to the exterior of the home may need not only a permit, but approval from the Village.



New roofs and additions, need permits. Additions also need approval from the Village's Design Review Board. Major landscaping and even fences may also need Village approval.

Before undertaking any projects, give the Village office a call 248.644.0044. It could save you time and money.

Police Blotter

As many residents know via our email blasts, there were three recent burglaries that occurred in Bingham Woods Condominium complex. All three occurred during the daytime.

The following are excerpts from a letter written by Police Chief Dan Roberts which offer recommendations to ensure the safety of our residents and help thwart burglaries.

1. Lock all doors when leaving, even if you only plan to be away for a short time. One homeowner was away from the residence for about 15 minutes when the burglary occurred. In another burglary, the thieves gained entry through an unlocked rear door.



2. If you have an alarm system, activate it every time you depart the residence. Our Police Officers normally have a very quick response time to residential alarms, most often in three minutes or less. None of the alarms were set in the three homes.



3. Pay attention to your surroundings. In two of the most recent burglaries there were witnesses who observed suspicious activity in the complex prior to the crimes. These observations went unreported to the police department. Should you see suspicious activity in the area, feel free to call the police department at **248.626.5444** or **911** to report it. Our Police officers don't mind at all coming to check out suspicious vehicles and/or persons who are not normally observed in the area.



4. Keep detailed records and photographs of high-value items in your home, such as jewelry, electronics, firearms, etc.



5. If you plan to be away from your home on vacation or for business, feel free to fill out a House Check Form and our Police Officers will occasional-



ly check on your home

A House Check Form is available on the Village website, www.binghamfarms.org. Click on the Forms list at the bottom of our home page.

Or, turn to the next page for the form.

Also, in this newsletter is a form to register your alarm system. This form provides police with pertinent contact information should your alarm go off when you are out of town.

Both forms will greatly assist our Police Officers.

Please remember, if you see anything suspicious, call the police department immediately. Calling the Village office will only delay the police response. Our officers do not mind checking things out.

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

Slow Down

Bingham Farms Police Officers monitor the speeds and other vehicle regulations. Not surprisingly, they are pretty much guaranteed to catch speeders or drivers failing to appropriately stop at intersections with stop signs.

This type of enforcement works. On one such day, an officer pulled over a driver just about 15 minutes after he set up monitoring on Bingham Rd. Interestingly enough, when other cars saw the lights, everyone slowed down **IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.**



The Police Officers are nice guys. They aren't out to get drivers going 5 miles over the speed limit. They are looking for those who flagrantly ignore posted speed limits.

Be safe. Drive 25 on all the

roads. And watch out for pedestrians.

On another note, let's talk Stop Signs. It's interesting to see how many different ways one "stops" at the sign.

There's the rolling stop, the touch your brake stop, the "oh, there was a stop sign?!" and there is the complete stop.

There actually are a few diligent drivers who come to a complete stop. That's the correct stop, you know, when the tires stop rotating completely. Yes, some people actually do this.



The fast pace of today's world contributes a lot to how a driver reacts to stop signs. But it's no excuse. You have to stop. You never know when a pedestrian, a bicyclist or another car will appear out of nowhere.

VILLAGE OFFICES
will be closed on
July 3rd and
September 7 - Labor Day



FRANKLIN – BINGHAM FARMS POLICE DEPARTMENT

32311 Franklin Road
 Franklin, Michigan 48025
 PHONE NUMBER: (248) 626-9672 (non-emergency)
 Emergency 911
 Dispatch (248) 626-5444

HOUSE CHECK FORM

Fax Number: (248) 538-5450

DATE TAKEN: _____

NAME	ADDRESS		
PHONE () -	LEAVING	RETURNING	
CAN BE REACHED AT:		PHONE () -	

ALARM: YES ___ NO ___	TYPE: SILENT ___ AUDIBLE ___ OTHER ___
ALARM COMPANY:	PHONE () -

MAIL / NEWSPAPER STOPPED: YES ___ NO ___ LAWN / SNOW CARED FOR: YES ___ NO ___

CAR IN DRIVEWAY: YES ___ NO ___ If yes, what kind? _____

TIMED LIGHTS: YES ___ NO ___ AREA: _____

WILL ANYONE HAVE ACCESS? YES ___ NO ___ If yes, WHO, WHEN? _____

NEIGHBORS WATCHING HOME:	NAME
	ADDRESS
	PHONE () -

OTHER INFORMATION:

Each resident shall be advised of the following: The best deterrents for burglaries are trustworthy neighbors who will report any suspicious activity to the police and a good burglar alarm system. If, for any reason, the resident returns early or extends his / her stay, the resident is to let the Franklin – Bingham Farms Police Department know immediately.

TIME / DATE CHECKED	OFFICER (S)	REMARKS
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

ALARM REGISTRATION FORM
Franklin Police Department
32311 Franklin Road
Franklin, MI 48025
Phone (248) 626-9672 Fax (248) 538-5450

Alarm System User			
Business Name (if applicable): _____			
First Name: _____		Last Name: _____	
Address: _____		City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Suite: _____	Other Alarm Site Information: _____		
Phone: _____	Alt.: _____	Email: _____	
Alarm Panel Location: _____			
Alarm Type: Panic _____ Break-In _____ Fire _____ Audible _____ Silent _____			
Billing Information (If different from above)			
Business Name (if applicable): _____			
First Name: _____	Last Name: _____		Title (check): <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.

Alarm Company			
Business Name: _____			
Address: _____		City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____	Fax: _____	Contact Person: _____	
Job Title: _____		Email: _____	
Monitoring Company (If different from above)			
Business Name: _____			
Address: _____		City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____	Fax: _____	Contact Person: _____	
Job Title: _____		Email: _____	

Emergency Contact Information			
Name	Relation	Phone	Alternate Phone
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

Village Balances Its Budget Once Again

The Village Council recently approved the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget. And once again, it is a balanced one.

However, to do this, the Council had to increase the millage rate from 7.9 mills to 8.4. This is due to both the Headlee Amendment and Prop A.

Simply put, the Headlee Amendment, ratified by voters in 1978, is a complex formula which limits growth on existing property community wide. In times of escalating home values, the local government must "rollback" its maximum authorized millage rate so growth on existing property does not exceed inflation. However, there is not a

reverse calculation when property values decrease.

In March 1994 voters approved Proposal A which added a second way to limit tax increases by taxing property based on its taxable value, not its assessed value. Taxable value cannot increase by more than the lesser of inflation or five percent annually unless a property is sold or "transferred".

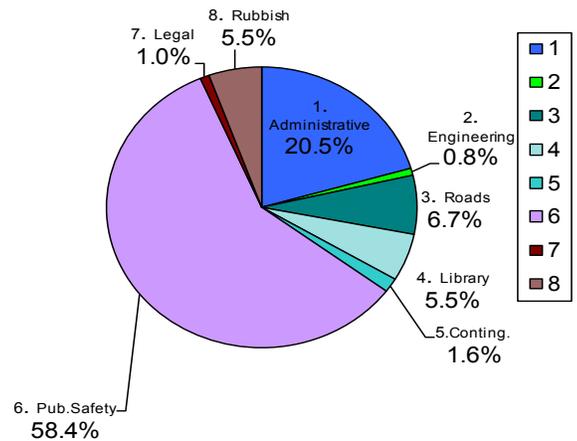
Given the impact of these two amendments combined with the bottom dropping out of the real estate market in 2009, local municipalities must find ways to keep current levels of service. People believe that when a property is sold, it is uncapped and the municipali-

ty benefits. But that's not so. With Proposal A, millage rates can now go down when growth in value outpaces inflation, but cannot go back up when inflation outpaces growth.

So, add up the impact and restrictions with Headlee and Proposal A, the loss of statutory state revenue sharing and the significant reduction in property values; hence the reason the Village must raise millage rates to provide necessary, quality services to its residents.

Even with the increase to 8.4 mills, the total Village taxes paid by property owners is still less than those paid in 2007.

1 Administrative	\$378,862
2 Engineering	15,000
3 Appropriations-Road Imprvmts.	125,000
4 Library	100,969
5 Contingency	30,000
6 Public Safety	1,077,637
7 Legal	17,500
8 Rubbish	102,000
	\$1,846,968



Budget Highlights

The Village Budget for 2015-2016 is \$1,846,968, an increase of \$157,749 or 9.3% compared to last year. The majority of the increase goes to funding road projects that have been previously delayed.

As the graph depicts, 58% of the budget goes to public safety, which includes the purchase of services from the Franklin Police Dept. and the Franklin Fire Dept. There is a modest increase of \$11,008 compared to last year.

The Village also purchases library services from the Birmingham

Baldwin Library. There is a \$3,220 increase this year. These contracts, although saving the Village a lot of money, provide little leeway in negotiating pricing.

An \$18,000 increase is included in the General Government Expenditures in the Budget. This includes costs for office rent, rubbish collection, engineering services, planning, legal, salaries, etc.

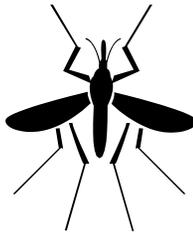
As indicated before, the major increase in the Budget (9%) is for roads. The Village has concentrated on

road maintenance projects in the last few years; however larger road projects are necessary and are planned for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and beyond. A \$125,000 increase is budgeted for this year alone.

The Village has laid out a ten-year road projects schedule which begins reconstruction of many of the local streets in the Village and is now budgeting funds to cover this cost prior to undertaking the projects.

Keep Fighting the West Nile Virus This Summer

What a difference a year makes. Last summer, the drought seemed to hold the mosquito population at bay. But this year, rainfall has returned to normal levels. So this summer, take extra care to protect yourself from those pesky mosquitoes and avoid getting the West Nile Virus. This virus is spread to humans when bitten by a mosquito that carries the virus. Fortunately, not all mosquitoes carry 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 infections 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

or

www.oakgov.com.

Let's Be Good Neighbors

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.

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.

Dog ownership comes with many responsibilities, including picking up a dog's deposit left on the road, rights of way or someone else's property.

A quick walk around Bingham Lane recently showed dog droppings in three separate places.



And these deposits were from a big dog. There was also a blue doggie bag left on another person's property.

This is not being terribly neighborly. Not all residents love dogs. Even if they do, they should not be responsible for picking up your dog's poop.

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

Con't from Pg. 4

Fireworks

during the holiday season, have a charged garden hose or some other water supply nearby just in case there's an accidental small fire.

If you have any complaints about fireworks displays, call the police department at the non-emergency at 248-626-5444.

Have a safe holiday.

Going on Vacation?

Fill out a

Vacation Home Check

Request Form.

Call the Police Dept. for more info at
248.626.9672

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. Jul 18 & Aug. 8

Day on the Town - downtown July 26 9:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m.

Birmingham Bike Festival - Aug. 24 Downtown 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Street Art Fair - Sept. 20 & 21

Franklin

Farmers Market on the Green Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Music on the Green - downtown Franklin– evenings July 15, July 22 & July 29 at 7:00 p.m. weather permitting

Movies on the Green - downtown Franklin - 8:30 p.m. July 29, August 5 & Aug. 12

Labor Day Parade - downtown Franklin - Sept. 7

Cider Mill - Open from Aug. 30 - Nov. 30

General

Woodward Dream Cruise - August 16

**SIGN UP TODAY FOR
EMAIL BLASTS**

**LOG ON TO
www.binghamfarms.org**

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

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

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