



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Winter, 2008

DIGITAL TRANSITION COMING FEBRUARY 18, 2009

Goodbye analog, hello digital. On February 19, 2009 the way people watch TV will change forever. On this day every major broadcast station will switch to digital broadcast.

More importantly, if you haven't bought a new TV (digital ready) within the last year and you do not subscribe to a cable or satellite TV service, you will need to purchase a converter box.

Many people are questioning why is this change occurring? Another question is what benefits will the consumer receive?

The government has mandated this transition. They say that more signals can be transmitted with the digital spectrum which then frees up the analog spectrum for emergency type broadcasts and services. The digital spectrum also provides broadcasters with more channel availability.

DTV makes it possible for stations to broadcast multiple channels of free programming simultaneously (called multicasting), instead of broadcasting only one channel at a time. DTV technology can also be used to provide future interactive video and

data services that are not possible with analog technology.

If you currently receive free over-the-air television programming on an analog television set, you will need a DTV converter box to continue to receive television service after February 17, 2009. DTV converter boxes will be available in early 2008.



To help consumers cover the cost of the converter box, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will be issuing to households up to two converter box coupons valued at \$40 each. These coupons will be available in early 2008.

For more information log on to

www.dtvanswers.com

or

www.ntia.doc.gov

or

call the FCC for a DTV information packet at

1-888-CALL-FCC
(1-888-225-5322)

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES SET FOR JANUARY 15, 2008

Both the Democratic and Republican primaries have been moved up to January 15th. Bingham Farms residents will vote at Bingham Farms Elementary School. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Party leaders in Michigan wanted to have a bigger say in who will represent them in the next Presidential elections.



This change now requires absentee voters to declare which ballot they want; a Republican primary ballot or a Democratic one. Without this designation, the Clerk will not be able to send out the ballot.

Due to changes in state election law, any voter wishing to be placed on a permanent Absentee Voter list must request such in writing. In the past, the Clerk had the discretion to

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WINTER MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Winter really is coming. That means having to deal with that cold, blustery weather, ice storms (hopefully not too many) and snow shoveling (to some it's fun, to others it's a chore). No matter what it won't go away.

So, here are some winter weather reminders to get you through without too many headaches.

The Village has continued its contract with Johnson Landscaping to provide winter road maintenance, snow removal and salt application.

The plows are called out as soon as 1 1/2 inches of snow has fallen on the roads. In heavy storms, the contractor will plow several times to keep the roads passable.



The Village will request additional work when conditions warrant. The decision to salt roads is based on the assessment of the police department. Similar to last year, the Village will salt all the roads to make travel less challenging. However, remember, this is Michigan. Conditions can change in a matter of hours. Salt becomes less effective when the temperature dips below 20 degrees.

All drivers, even in four wheel

(Cont. on Pg. 5)

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2008

January 28
February 25
March 24

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

YEAR END RESULTS ARE IN WEST NILE VIRUS HANGS TOUGH

The statistics are in regarding human cases of the West Nile Virus in 2007. Thirteen cases have been reported state-wide, just two in Oakland County

Last year, there were 50 human cases reported in Michigan. There were no deaths reported.

The height of West Nile cases was in 2002 when 644 cases were reported and 51 people died.

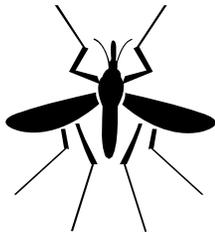
Prevention measures are working. The best advice — keep doing what you are doing.

Most people infected with West Nile do not show any symptoms. Twenty percent however, have flu-like symptoms, including fever, fatigue, headache and muscle or joint pain. Less than 1% of those infected become severely ill.

The Oakland County Health Dept. maintains that prevention is the best method to combat the virus. Specifically,

- ♦ 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 window and screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- ♦ Empty water from mosquito breeding sites such as buckets, barrels, cans, old tires, or similar sites.
- ♦ Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active (dawn and dusk).
- ♦ Wear light colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- ♦ Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET to exposed skin or clothing. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for use. (Avoid applying repellent containing DEET to children less than two years of age.)

If you find any dead birds, report it to the Oakland County Health Division Hotline at 1-877-377-3641. Then, properly dispose of the bird. Wear gloves to protect yourself from direct contact with the bird.

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

www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus
or
www.oakgov.com

CONSTRUCTION DO'S AND DON'TS

The most frequently asked question the Village receives regards the procedures for home remodeling, new home construction and additions. The following hopefully will provide some answers.

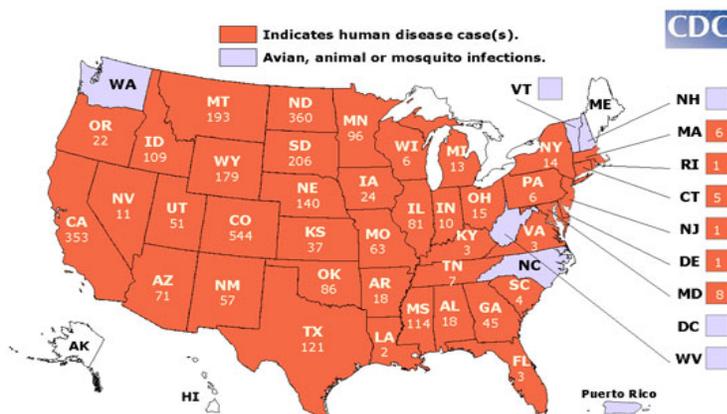
Construction Do's.

- ♦ Do contact the Village office in the beginning stages of any project design, even if it's landscaping. The Village staff will guide you through the process.
- ♦ For new home construction, do submit early designs to the Design Review Board (DRB) to get their input. All new home construction must receive DRB approval.
- ♦ Do submit early designs to the DRB for major and minor additions. Major additions of 1600 sq. ft. or more will also need Village engineer review.
- ♦ Do contact the City of Southfield for actual permits after Village approval is secured. The City of Southfield performs all building inspections in the Village.
- ♦ Do contact the Village early if adding a deck, patio or landscape structures. In most cases, these projects require DRB review and approval.
- ♦ Do contact the Village office whenever you have any questions.
- ♦ Do verify legal lot boundaries before planting or building.



Construction Don'ts.

- ♦ Do not start a project without first contacting the Village to make sure the project complies with Village codes and possible association restrictions.
- ♦ Do not start a project without the proper permits.
- ♦ Do not undertake a project without professional assistance (engineers, architects, landscape designers).



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Jane Bauer

It has been several years since we suffered as much cold, snow or wind in December. Did global cooling just hit Southeastern Michigan? For some reason we were actually prepared when the cold weather came. In early November, we did the outside work and put up the holiday lights in comfort. Those Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza and winter solstice lights with which you decorated your houses, yards and businesses have really beautified our Village. Thank you for helping to make the darkest evenings of the year cheerful and bright. Driving at night was a pleasure and Santa had no trouble finding us.

The snow plows must maintain a certain speed to plow effectively. If your plowing service leaves snow that freezes in piles on the street, the plow blade will jump and the result is a poorly plowed street. By ordinance, the snow that falls on your property is yours and must not be left on the street, dumped on your neighbor's property or in the ditch across the road. If we have a heavy snowfall, be a good neighbor by clearing any snow blocking access to our fire hydrants.

Keep your shopping trips happy. Turn on your alarm system when you leave your house. Most of us returning home with our arms full of groceries don't want to surprise an intruder. We prefer that the burglar be frightened by a loud alarm and skedaddle before we get home. In fact, if you approach your house and see evidence of mischief, call our Police Department office at (248)

626-5444 for fast response. Let them lead the way in.

To help all of us make 2008 a happy year, please observe the 25 MPH speed limit and the stop signs. All of us appreciate gentle drivers and we must be aware of the growing deer population in our village. We are having more and more close calls with deer and if you see one deer expect to see at least one more. By the way, how many of you have seen our wild turkeys?

Speaking of deer, we have had some success limiting deer damage by stringing 90 pound test fishing line around our flower beds. To prevent deer peeling bark from our trees and nibbling the young branches, we are trying a mixture of dormant oil spray and Tabasco Sauce. Remember that some trees do not like oil sprays.

If this is winter, then spring is just around the corner. Remember to pick up any tree or property damage caused by the winter weather. This will help keep our Village looking nice and minimize your spring clean-up.

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on Village commissions and advisory boards. If you can help, call our Village Office or email the Village at :

clerk@binghamfarms.org.

You may not be asked to serve immediately, but your availability is important to us.

Finally, we hope that you and yours are blessed with a great and wonderful year.

Another Year, Another Record?

It's not known for sure yet, December final figures are not in, but Bingham Farms Mobile Watch probably has set a new record in 2007 for the annual number of Village tours taken.

We count our tours taken each month and compete for prizes based on the number of tours completed. More importantly, each tour we take is one more opportunity to watch YOUR house or condo. We are pleased with our progress, and hope to do even better in 2008.

You can help us set a new record in the new year by joining Bingham Farms Mobile Watch. It is very easy work, not time consuming, no expense involved, at times you schedule, and you never have to get out of your car (especially good this time of year).

You can learn more by guesting with us some first Wednesday of the month at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse. We are always there by 7:30 p.m., hear a personal, interesting police report, have coffee and a sweet, and are home by 9:00.

For more information or to let us know you are coming, call Dick Holway at 248/644-2622.

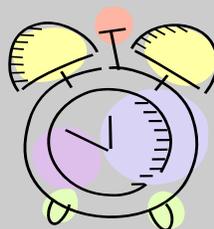
By Bingham Farms Mobile Watch



REMEMBER SPRING FORWARD

DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME

SUNDAY
MARCH 9, 2008



FOR THE LATEST
VILLAGE INFORMATION
LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE
AT

www.binghamfarms.org

STOP SIGNS

Let me count the ways to obey a stop sign.

- ♦ The rolling stop
- ♦ The touch your brake stop
- ♦ Oh, there was a stop sign?!
- ♦ The complete stop



We've seen them all.

First, the rolling stop. That's when a driver applies pressure to the brake pedal and somewhat slows down.

The touch your brake is when a driver presses on the brake pedal for less than a second and barely slows down.

Of course there's the driver who figures if he's on the main road and he doesn't see a car on the side street, the stop sign can be ignored.

Finally, the diligent driver who comes to a complete stop. That's 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 to put other people in jeopardy.

Police Officers handle all sorts of accidents, many because drivers just don't pay attention.

With the winter months still ahead, road conditions can change very quickly.

So, besides slowing down, allow yourself enough room to come to a full stop at the signs. It's the best way to avoid a collision.

POLICE & FIRE PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY **9-1-1**
DISPATCH **248-626-5444**
POLICE DEPT. **248-626-9672**
FIRE DEPT. **248-626-9862**

PROTECT YOUR PETS

Fido may be man's best friend, but sometimes he may be forgotten when winter weather comes, especially if he's an outside dog.

To protect your pet during the cold months, follow these winter weather safety tips:

* When the temperature falls below 30 degrees Fahrenheit, it's best to keep your pet indoors. Short-haired dogs, cats and puppies should be kept indoors when the temperature dips below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.



♦ Keep antifreeze containers out of your pet's reach.

Antifreeze tastes sweet to pets, but most brands are poisonous if consumed.

♦ Use a damp towel to wipe your pet's feet and underside. Ice-melting chemicals can irritate and burn the pads of their feet.



* If your pet gets less exercise in the winter months, he may need less food.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Cont. from Pg. 1

mass mail Absentee Voter applications. This is no longer allowed.

Southfield Township handles all state and national elections. If you are a new voter, you may register at any Secretary of State office or at Southfield Township offices located at 18550 W. Thirteen Mile Rd. That's just west of Southfield Road.

Any question, call Southfield Township at 248-540-3420.

WINTER IS HERE. ARE YOU READY?

From Chief Averbuch
 Franklin/Bingham Volunteer Fire Dept.

The joys of winter are upon us. Snow, sleet and rain. As we venture through another winter season, we should all be prepared for whatever the day may bring. Here are a few tips to keep you safe this winter.

♦ If you have a fireplace, have your chimney inspected regularly to prevent the buildup of creosote.

♦ Maintain your furnace and water heater with periodic service inspections to not only keep them running efficiently, but to also prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

♦ As driveways and sidewalks are shoveled, make certain that house numbers are in plain sight so that emergency vehicles may find you.

♦ Besides changing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, don't forget to also test them.

Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide meters utilize sensors that have a life-span of around 10 years. If your detector continuously sounds off, it may be time for a replacement.

♦ Make sure that you have a **working** portable fire extinguisher for home use.

♦ If you have an emergency generator, make sure it is routinely tested and maintained. Place it far enough away from your home to prevent exhaust fumes from traveling back into the house.

♦ Keep an emergency supply kit for those "Just in Case" scenarios. Items such as food, blankets, shovel, radio, flashlight and extra batteries for a start.

For additional information on winter fire safety and emergency information, log on to www.redcross.org, or www.oakgov.com/erp/.

The best advice is for every neighbor to work together to prevent an emergency from occurring at all and that's "Neighbors Helping Neighbors".



TIME TO THINK GREEN

There's still a lot of winter left, but it may be the perfect time to start thinking about spring planting.

Earth-friendly landscaping reduces the need for lots of herbicides and pesticides that pollute rivers and streams. Plants native to Michigan are better able to tolerate Michigan's climate. They also require less fertilizer and water and are more disease resistant.

There are abundant native plants that may be used.

Native Trees include the American Beech, Black Cherry Hemlock and Red Maples. Ferns such as Lady Fern, Wood fern and Oak fern all do well in Michigan's climate.

As for shrubs, try blackberry, cranberry, Honeysuckle or pussy willow.

And there are a myriad of native wildflowers from aster to coreopsis to milkweed.

If you're trying to discourage deer feeding on your vegetation, try boxwood, pine, spruce, juniper and forsythia. Deer also don't particularly like daffodils, mints, peonies, geraniums, snapdragons and sometimes marigolds.

Liquid fence also does the trick but should be reapplied periodically.



UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS

June, 2008
Household Hazardous Waste
Drop Off
Large Item Pick Up

Watch for details in the Spring Edition of the Bingham Farms Post and the Village website at www.binghamfarms.org



AT&T ROLLING OUT VIDEO PACKAGES

Is AT&T really offering competitive cable TV products in Bingham Farms? According to AT&T that answer is yes, in some areas. Unfortunately, they have not divulged exactly where that service is available.

According to Carmen Johnson, an AT&T representative, approximately 50% of the Village is ready. While this may seem like good news, it may still take time for the rest of the Village to get this service. AT&T has until **2009** to complete the build out.

AT&T uses fliers to notify residents that they are eligible to receive service. Another way to find out is to log on to AT&T's website www.uverse.att.com and put in either your phone number or address. It will say whether the system is available at your address.

If your address doesn't show up, just type in your email address and AT&T will notify you when the product is available.

The AT&T U-Verse product offers wireless TV and internet using internet protocol technology.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

Cont. From Pg. 1

drive vehicles, need to take into consideration the road conditions. It takes longer to stop on icy or snow covered roads.

Homeowners should also know there are state and local laws regarding snow removal. It is illegal to plow snow across the roadway. Many private contractors take the fastest course, doing just that.

This practice creates rows of snow across the road. That snow can freeze, creating a potentially dangerous situation for cars and pedestrians. It also becomes more difficult for the Village snow contractor to keep the roads in decent condition.

COMCAST CABLE SERVICE

It never fails. You're anxiously waiting for the start of that romantic movie or the big game and your screen goes black. You try the other channels praying it isn't so. They're all black. What to do?



First, call **Comcast at 1-800-COMCAST (1-800-266-2278)** or their local number 248-855-6971 to find out if the problem is solely at your home or whether it's an area outage.

If you are unhappy with your service, there is another avenue to channel your complaint. **Call the Birmingham Area Cable Board at 248-336-9445.** The Cable Board has a part-time employee who handles complaints and hopefully can help resolve the issue.

The Cable Board has regulatory control over Cable TV only. However, they will try to assist with any internet related problems.

LOOKING FOR YOUR ACCESS CHANNELS

In an effort to bring more customers over to the digital lineup, Comcast is repositioning Channels 15, 16, 17 & 18. **This change will occur by January 15, 2008.**

For Comcast subscribers who have digital TV sets or subscribe to the digital tier, these channels will now be broadcast on:

Municipal/Library Access -	Ch. 915
Bloomfield Schools -	Ch. 902
Birmingham Schools -	Ch. 903
Public Access -	Ch. 916

For Comcast subscribers who have analog TV sets, a converter box is necessary to view these channels.

For more information, call Comcast at 1-877-824-2984

DEER CRASHES ON THE RISE IN SUBURBIA

Are there more deer in Bingham Farms? The answer is yes. Deer have acclimated to life in populated areas. With the increase in the number of herds, there is a corresponding increase in car/deer crashes.

Interesting enough, the majority of vehicle-deer crashes are highest in six Counties, including Oakland. In 2006 there were 1,866 reported incidents.

Most incidents happen between dusk and dawn and during the spring and fall months.

The average cost to repair a vehicle damaged when a driver hits a deer is \$2,135. Worse yet, many vehicles are not drivable after such an accident.



Pay attention to deer crossing signs. A driver has just seconds to react if a deer comes into view.

If a crash is unavoidable, follow these steps.

- ♦ Don't swerve!
- ♦ Brake firmly
- ♦ Hold onto the steering wheel
- ♦ Stay in your lane
- ♦ Bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
- ♦ Report a crash to the nearest police agency and your insurance company.

NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES OFFER FUN ACTIVITIES

Birmingham

January 11-13 & 18-20 "Three Tall Women" at the Village Playhouse - 248-644-2075

February 4-8 - Birmingham Restaurant Week

March 2-22 & 28-30 "Into the Woods" at the Village Playhouse

Baldwin Library -

March 20 at 7:30 p.m. - Thursday evening book club - "The Beekeeper's Apprentice

April 9 at 2:00 p.m. - Wednesday afternoon book club - "The Beekeeper's Apprentice

April 16th at 7:00 p.m. - Meet the author, Laurie King

Oakland County - The Fridge Toboggan Run

Wed-Fri 4:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Sun Noon - 6:00 p.m.

For more information log on to www.oakgov.com/parksrec.



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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