



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Winter, 2010

DTE SCHEDULES TREE TRIMMING TO HELP CUT DOWN ON POWER OUTAGES

Everyone seems to be in agreement that residents in Bingham Farms have had more than their fair share of power outages. Some of these outages have lasted for days, others not as long. No matter which, it is frustrating.

At a meeting held in December at Bingham Farms school, DTE representatives met with residents to discuss the situation and what steps the company has taken to reduce the number of outages. According to DTE records, there have been 13 outages over the last two years. Some were due to major storms that hit the area, others from dead trees (many of them ash trees) which had fallen on the electric lines.



DTE is taking a two-phase approach to tackle the problem. The first phase is to add more fuses along the circuit to reduce the number of homes affected by an incident in a specific area. The second phase is to trim trees that are close to the power lines.

Detroit Edison line-clearance crews are heading to Bingham Farms in

January.

According to DTE, tree interference is responsible for about two-thirds of the power outages that occur during storms. That's why they employ more than 500 professional tree trimmers to maintain the estimated 3.5 million trees in its service territory.

"We trim trees for two very important reasons – to ensure our customers have dependable electric service and to prevent safety hazards," said Vince Dow, DTE Energy vice president of Distribution Operations. "By maintaining a 10-foot clearance between tree branches and our power lines, we can significantly reduce tree-related power outages."

The company's tree-trimming crews follow International Society of Arboriculture standards to maintain the health of trees. "Our goals are to keep customers' trees alive, healthy and out of harm's way," explained Dow. "The directional pruning method we use removes only the branches that pose a threat to power lines, and helps ensure that future growth is directed

Cont. on Pg. 2

THERE'S A NEW CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN TOWN

In an effort to facilitate resolution of resident complaints, the Village has entered into an agreement with the Village of Beverly Hills to provide code enforcement services. Dan Gosselin has been the Code Enforcement Officer at Beverly Hills for the past seven years and has worked with residents to resolve complaints of ordinance violations.

Here's how the process will work. When the Village receives a complaint relative to a possible ordinance violation, Dan will be contacted and authorized to investigate the complaint and

determine whether there is an actionable violation.

If a violation is found, the property owner will be given a Notice of Violation. This Notice will specify the violation and a time parameter to correct the infraction.

Dan is known for working with residents whenever possible. The goal is to get the violation corrected, not to issue tickets or litigate.

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WINTER MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

So far so good this winter. It's been pretty mild, especially compared to last year's record snowfall. But no one knows when the wrath of winter will hit in Michigan.

The Village contracts with Johnson Landscaping for snow removal services. Once 2 inches of snow has accumulated on the roads, the plows are called out. The Village may request additional work when conditions warrant.



The decision to salt the roads is based on the assessment of the police department. Weather conditions also play a role in assessing the need.

Salt becomes less effective when the temperature dips below 20 degrees, so there will be times when it is just too cold to have salt applied.

Residents have responsibilities too. Village ordinance, as well as state law, prohibits the plowing of snow across a road and dumping it on your neighbor's property. Most residents have trained their snow removal contractors to abide by the law.

Plowing snow across a roadway leaves "snow rows". These deposits create a safety problem for motorists and

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2010

**January 25
February 22
March 22**

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

TWO WAYS TO STAY INFORMED

Every now and then, the Village or its police department needs to advise residents of emergency situations such as water shutoff or safety issues.

Fortunately, the Village is pretty quiet but every now and then it becomes important to get in touch with residents.

The Franklin Bingham Farms Police Dept. has joined a notification service called NIXLE. When there is information to be broadcast, the police department notifies NIXLE. NIXLE quickly sends this information to its membership via email or text messaging.

It's easy to become a member. Log on to the NIXLE site at <http://local.nixle.com/register> and provide some basic information. That's it.

Better yet, there is no cost for the membership.

A number of members of the Village's Mobile Watch group have already signed up for the service.

The Village also offers a similar service operated by Village staff. The Village system provides its residents with more general information such as water emergencies, special events in addition to messages from the police department.

To sign up for the Village service, just send an email to info@binghamfarms.org and ask to be placed on the list. It's that simple.

For more information call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

DTE Tree Trimming Pg. 1

away from power lines. After we trim, trees are less susceptible to disease and insect problems, and because they're stronger, they're more resistant to high winds and heavy ice."

Detroit Edison removes from customer property the small branches and debris that result from its tree trimming work. Larger trimmed branches are cut into firewood length and left behind for customer use or disposal. Detroit Edison will not, however, remove diseased tree debris.

Debris caused by a severe storm also is not removed. In the aftermath of a storm, Detroit Edison crews must work quickly to remove downed wire hazards and restore power to thousands of customers. They will cut broken and uprooted trees in order to reach locations that need repair. In such emergency situations, customers are advised to contact their rubbish collector or professional tree-removal company for advice on disposing of debris.

Customers are responsible for keeping tree branches away from their service drops; that is the lines that run from utility poles to their homes. Although the voltage running through the service drop is significantly lower than that of pole-to-pole wires, Detroit Edison recommends that customers hire a professional tree service to do this trimming. Visit dteenergy.com/treetrim to find more information about line clearance and proper tree planting.

If a power outage occurs it is important that every household report the outage at **1.800.477.4747**. This helps DTE determine the number of people without power in a specific location. Just because your neighbor has reported the outage, it does not mean DTE knows you also do not have power. The more households that call provide DTE with more information relative to a power outage.

The Michigan Public Service Commission also keeps tabs on the number of outages. If DTE does not adequately address the problem, let the MPSC know at 1.800.292.9555.

YEAR END RESULTS ARE IN CASES OF WEST NILE VIRUS ARE WAY DOWN

What a year 2009 turned out to be. There were no reported human cases of West Nile Virus in the entire state. And only three counties found infected mosquitoes. The results show that residents are taking proper precautions to avoid exposure to mosquitoes.

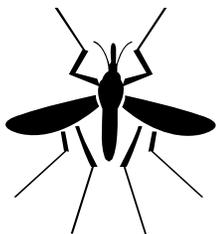
It does not mean that the battle is over. It was back in 2002 when 644 human cases were reported and there were 51 deaths associated with the virus.

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.)

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

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

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David M. Leckie

Greetings from the corner. Winter officially arrived on December 21st but we felt the cold well before then. A few reminders to help you get safely through the snow, ice, wind etc.

First is snow plowing. Please remind your snow plow contractors that it's illegal to plow snow from your driveway out across the road. Snow plow contractors must keep residents snow on their own property. Also try not to park cars on the street during a storm as this causes problems when the village snow plow contractor starts clearing our streets. It's no fun trying to get the car out afterwards.

On a more somber note. Everyone is well aware of the state economy. The Village has been impacted by major reductions in state revenue sharing with a second hit with falling home values. Commercial property owners are also feeling the pinch. Some have successfully appealed to the Tax Tribunal and their assessments have been lowered.

However, your council is watching the Village's financials very closely and does not foresee any need for reductions in services at this time. Years of conservative spending have definitely helped keep Village operations in the black.

Now some safety tips. Fortunately, the Village has not experienced a major influx of criminal activity and that goes to show how just taking simple measures can keep crime down. A few quick and easy tips will help keep you from becoming a victim.

- Activate your home alarm system even if you're going out for a short time. A thief can be in and out of a home in minutes.
- Park vehicles in the garage or make sure cars are locked when parked in the driveway.
- Watch out for your neighbors. If you know they're out of town and see something unusual, call police dispatch at 248.626.5444.
- If you are going out of town, let the police know. The Police Department has a form that can be filled which provides the police with pertinent information. The form may be picked up at the police department. It takes just a few minutes to fill out.

Here's hoping for a less severe winter than what we had last year. So far so good. I wish all our residents a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Did We Celebrate Too Soon?

Well, in Bingham Farms Mobile Watch, we certainly hope not, as we enjoyed our regular Holidayfest in early December. It's at this business meeting/social event that we prepare to celebrate another record year of tours through the Village.

But while this has been a very good year, we won't know until December is concluded whether we have set another record of tours taken. A year earlier we were able to announce "victory" and celebrate a big improvement over the preceding year even though we still had most of a month to go.

Nonetheless, the Holidayfest was a success, with champagne, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and a good police report. You could help us make the new year even better by joining us for a few Village tours and some interesting social events. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 pm at the Bingham Wood Clubhouse on River Crossing, and we will all be home by nine.

You won't need a reservation, but if you want more information before your visit, call Dick Holloway at 248.644.2622.

From Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

MEMBERS OF YOUR VILLAGE COUNCIL

		Term Expires
President	David Leckie	9/2013
President ProTem	Delores Tripp	9/2011
Trustees	Mel Ettenson	9/2013
	Bill Gollnitz	9/2011
	Rodger Kesley	9/2013
	Don Ketai	9/2013
	Dorothy Warren	9/2011

CHECK OUT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.binghamfarms.org

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SPECIAL EVENTS AND NOTICES

NOW AVAILABLE AT THE VILLAGE

Not much in life is free these days. But the Village office has calendars and maps available at no cost to residents.

Each year, the Water Resources Commissioner's Office produces a Kids' Clean Water Calendar made up of kids Winning Calendar Contest Entries and tips to help clean up our waterways.



Also available is a street map for the Birmingham Bloomfield Area, compliments of the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber. The map covers Birmingham, Bloomfield Twp., Bloomfield Hills, Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills and Franklin. It's great to be able to find a street with ease rather than randomly driving around.



Supplies are limited so stop in the Village office soon to pick up a copy.

Winter Maintenance Cont. from Pg. 1

pedestrians and also prevents the Village contractor from properly clearing the streets.

The Village is not alone enforcing this law. The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) has encountered similar problems. There have been times that roads had to be plowed a second time because excess snow was left on the roads by the private contractor. This delayed snow removal in other areas.

Property owners can be ticketed and fined for violating this ordinance. The last thing the Village wants to do is ticket a property owner.

Safety is our primary concern.. Help out. Have your snow plow contractor help out too by keeping the snow on your property.

CLEAN WATER IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Where pollution is concerned, every home is waterfront property. Stormwater runoff from lawns, gardens, driveway and rooftops contributes to the pollution of the Rouge River and other waterways.

Rain-water and water from sprinkler systems push soil, fertilizer, oil, leaves and grass clippings into drains and open ditches. These products ultimately into a waterway.



To reduce the impact, try mulching your leaves with your mower. The mulch can be used around ornamental plants, shrubs and trees.

Ask your landscape contractor to use slow release fertilizers. Sweep up excess fertilizer that has spilled onto a driveway or other hard surface. Avoid weed-and-feed combination products as they often can add unnecessary herbicides.

When planning new gardens or planting new trees use native trees and shrubs. Look for disease-resistant plantings.

Everyone benefits from clean waterways.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS	
Police & Fire	9-1-1
Police (dispatch)	248.626.5444
Police (office)	248.626.9672
Fire (office)	248.626.9862
DTE (electric)	1.800.477.4747
Consumers (gas)	1.800.477.5050

FAST TIPS

When do I need to get a permit? When do I need to get approval from the Design Review Board?

Here's a quick rule of thumb. If you have any questions while drawing up plans for home remodels etc., call the Village early in the planning process and avoid critical delays when you're ready to start.

Electrical Work - go directly to the City of Southfield Building Dept. (they perform all building inspections for the Village). 248.796.4100

Plumbing - go directly to the City of Southfield Building Dept.

Home Additions/Remodels - Request to be placed on the Design Review Board Agenda. If considering a major addition or change in façade, bring in sketches first to the Village office for a preliminary review.



Tree Removal Permits - In order to protect the natural features in the Village, a permit for tree removal is necessary **if three or more regulated trees are to be removed** from a site within a two year time period. No regulated tree shall be removed from a site without first providing notice to the Village Administrator identifying the tree and removal date. See Chapter 93 of the Village Code for more information.



Removal of dead or damaged trees may not need a permit. Call the Village office before removing the trees for verification.

The entire Village code is on the website at www.binghamfarms.org.

Any questions, call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

PUSH TO SAVE THE "ECCENTRIC" CONTINUES

It started with just one person who said it just isn't right to lose a local paper that has been in circulation for 130 years. Others heard and joined the campaign.

The effort that began in May continues and the new subscriber base is growing (almost 3,000 new subscribers to date). Advertising has also increased thanks to the efforts of the Principal Shopping District and the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.

"From volunteers at the farmers market, joint advertising sales calls, columns in the paper by committee members and friends, and hard work by the Eccentric staff to improve the paper, we have really achieved something special and noteworthy" said David Bloom, Chairman of the "Committee To Save The Eccentric."

In January 2010 the Eccentric plans to launch a new subscription drive with prizes that include gift cards to Kroger stores and Papa Joe's in downtown Birmingham and more. In addition, The Eccentric staff plans to enhance email marketing efforts in the Birmingham/ Bloomfield area along with a continued push on telemarketing.

The "Eccentric" paper is sold at local retailers. Pick one up and see why so many people want to keep this paper going.

Or log on to the website www.savetheeccentric.com and subscribe.

CHECK OUT

THE

VILLAGE WEBSITE

**IT HAS LOTS OF
INFORMATION**

www.binghamfarms.org

TELEGRAPH ROAD CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED

Not sure how many drivers got caught in the road construction on Square Lake Rd. this summer. It was pretty brutal.

Well, get ready. That scene is coming right into our backyards next spring. MDOT is going out for bids for a major road project on Telegraph Rd. extending from I-696 to Long Lake Rd.

It entails total road reconstruction, drainage improvements and lighting. Everything goes.



During the week, efforts will be made to keep two lanes open in each direction. On weekends, only one lane. Expect delays and lots of traffic congestion.

The project is expected to begin in April and go through the fall.

VILLAGE ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

The good news is that the Village is almost done with its road reconstruction projects that began almost five years ago. The next project is Fromm.

Work should begin sometime after July 1. The work involves tearing up the existing road and putting down a new base and top coat. Some drainage work will be included.

Residents who have sprinkler systems or electronic dog fencing in the road right of way will need to remove them prior to the start of construction. The Village will not assume responsibility for private installations in the road right of way.

More information will be provided closer to start of construction.

BALDWIN LIBRARY CHOCK FULL OF PROGRAMS

2010 has arrived and Baldwin Public Library is looking forward to serving Bingham Farms in the year ahead. Stop by to check out the latest bestsellers and be sure to put some of our programs on your calendar.

To stay current on what's happening at the Library register for Baldwin's eNews at

www.baldwinlib.org/enews.

Need help with your taxes? Baldwin will host AARP tax counselors, who will provide free tax help to people from low to middle incomes with special attention to those aged 60 and older. Help is scheduled on Thursdays (2/4, 3/4, and 4/1) from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 248.554.4650 to schedule an appointment.

Let your MP3 player or iPod tell you a story. The Library provides downloadable audiobooks you can access from home. Schedule a one-on-one training session to help you get started by calling 248.554.4650.

Stop into the Youth Room during Midwinter Break (2/15 to 2/19) to take advantage of our many programs and events. It's dubbed the "Week of the Olympians."

Calling all artists Grades 3 to 6! Join us on March 1 at 4:15 p.m. to learn how to draw superheroes and action figures. Chris Girard, an instructor from the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, will lead the session.

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

From The Baldwin Library

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT RUBBISH

It's just a drag for most people, getting the garbage out every week. But have you ever thought about what happens to all that garbage after it's picked up?

First some of the basics. Village rubbish pick up is on Thursdays. Rubbish should be placed at the street by 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning. According to Village ordinance, garbage cans may be placed at the street not more than 12 hours prior to the established time for pick up and all containers shall be removed within 24 hours after pick up.

The reason the Village has established time parameters is to avoid containers sitting at the street days prior to and days after pick up. It adds to concerns that the containers can be blowing around and end up in the middle of the street.

Residents do periodically complain about containers being left out for days after the pickup. If you are going out of town, ask your neighbor to take

the cans in for you.

Residents have questioned why the rubbish contractor puts compost materials in with the regular rubbish. They sometimes do that, but they separate it at the dump site.

Normally, the driver makes one round picking up the compost and a second round for the regular trash.



If there are just a few bags of compost, the driver will place it on top of the "blade" and then separate it when he gets to the dump.

The rubbish is checked at the dump and while both garbage and compost are taken to the same site, they are separated and dumped in separate locations.

If the contractor mixes compost with garbage, they are subject to a hefty fine of \$1,000 - \$5,000.

Residents have the responsibility also to make sure compost materials are separated from regular garbage. If Car Trucking finds mixed materials, they are not mandated to take the material.

To help with the segregation of materials, it is recommended that separate containers be used for garbage and compost. Make sure the compost container is marked "Yard Waste". The Village office has "Yard Waste" stickers available at no charge.

Burning of leaves and wood is allowed in the Village with the following restrictions:

- No burning on any paved or bituminous street.
- No burning of any type of material where smoke or odor will create a nuisance.
- Do not leave a fire unattended at any time.
- Do not burn closer than 15-feet to a building.

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING

Just over a year ago, the Village entered into a Agreement with SOCRRA (South Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority) to allow Village residents to use their facility in Royal Oak to dispose of Household Hazardous Waste.

The facility is located on Coolidge between 14 & 15 Mile Road (across the street from Meijer's).

Beside residential hazardous waste, the facility also accepts electronics such as computers, telephones and TVs.

Appointments are mandatory. Just call 248.288.5153 and you can arrange a date and time for drop off.

Residents should be aware that latex paint is **not** considered a hazardous material. **ONLY OIL BASED PAINT IS CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS.** See



Pg. 7 for proper disposal of latex paint.

Per the agreement, the Village pays SOCRRA \$30 per car but is assessed an additional fee for excess materials. Excess material charges are incurred when a resident drops off a "large" amount of product. One resident dropped off more than 45 cans of paint.

Village recycling is now also taken to the SOCRRA facility, which accepts more types of recycled products. Green glass (wine bottles), large mouthed plastic containers even junk mail can be placed in the recycling bins. Check out the SOCRRA website www.socrra.org to access a complete list of acceptable materials.

The Village is periodically asked what a resident can do with old, used tires. In the past, the Village rubbish contractor was able to take a limited number of used tires. State law

now prohibits this.

An internet search came up with one company that accepts used tires.

Silver Lining in Wyandotte takes any number of tires and charges a nominal fee. The tires are processed daily using a state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind, tire shredder machine. The shredded material is removed daily and shipped to end-users. The product is used for fuel at electric companies to help keep the lights on in Michigan communities. It is also used in playgrounds. Call 734.324.4800. for more information.



If there are any others, let the Village know and it will be added to the list.

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSING OF LATEX PAINT

In response to questions regarding what to do with old latex paint, SOCRRA has developed a few simple guidelines. Latex paint is technically not a Household Hazardous Waste, but it is considered a liquid and therefore cannot be placed in with the trash. It must be turned into a solid. To do this, the paint must first be dried or hardened before it is disposed of in the trash, and the empty paint cans be placed in the recycling bin. ***Because oil-based paint contains dangerous solvents, it is important to remember that these procedures can only be used with latex paint.***

Here are the recommended options:

Natural Drying - With paint cans that are less than a quarter full, simply remove the lid and place the can in a well-ventilated area. The remaining paint should be dry within a few days. Once dry, the hardened paint can be chipped out and placed with the trash. The empty paint can, whether metal or plastic, should be placed in the recycling bin.

For paint cans that are more than a quarter full, you'll need:

Paint Hardener - You can pick up paint hardener at any local hardware or paint store. Once you have your paint hardener there are a few simple steps to follow:

1. Cover your work surface to protect it from paint splashes
2. Add a paint hardener to the can – read the directions on the packet to find out how much hardener you need to add. Typically one packet will harden up to 2/3rds of a gallon of paint.
3. Stir and mix thoroughly. After a few minutes, the paint will have a chunky, oatmeal-like texture



You can now dispose of the dried paint in the trash. The empty paint can be placed in the recycling bin.

Kitty litter - This common, household absorbent works well in removing the moisture from latex paint. How much kitty litter to add depends on the makeup and age of the latex paint. In most cases, start with a cup or two and add as needed. Stir thoroughly and after a short time, the paint will thicken. Dispose of the hardened material in the trash and recycle the empty paint cans.



Saw Dust, Mulch, Small Animal Bedding, & Sand – These are other common absorbents that can be used to thicken and solidify latex paint. Use them the same way you would use kitty litter. Remember to recycle empty paint cans ***and lids*** after disposing of the hardened paint.

Some general tips to consider before drying latex paint:

- To limit waste buy only what you need – ask at the paint stores, they are the experts!
- Store cans in a proper place, properly sealed, so the paint doesn't leak or dry out.
- Storing paint cans upside down can help keep paint fresh.
- Try to use all of the paint.
- Donate any leftover paint to local schools, churches or theatre groups.

HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

Birmingham

January - "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the Village Playhouse - 248-644-2075

February 4-8 - Birmingham Restaurant Week

February - "Assassins" at the Village Playhouse

May - "Hair" at the Village Playhouse

Beverly Hills -

Jan. 25 - Family Fun Day



CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS! CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

Spring forward and fall back. Come March 14th, we give back that extra hour of sleep we gained in the fall.

Turn your clocks ahead one hour on that Sunday. Or as many do, turn them back before you go to bed on Saturday night. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

On the positive side, the time change means that warmer weather is soon to arrive.

Remember, while changing your clocks, change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors too.

Be proactive. Take a few minutes to make sure all your detectors are working. It might not just save your house, it may also save YOU.



FIRST DAY
OF
SPRING

MARCH 20



MICHIGAN REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. SENATORS

Carl Levin (D)

269 Russell Senate Bldg.,
Washington, D.C. 20510
Local Phone # 313.226.6020
senator@levin.senate.gov

Term Expires

Jan. 2015

Debbie Stabenow (D)

133 Hart Senate Bldg.,
Washington, D.C. 20510
Local Phone # 313.961.4330
senator@stabenow.senate.gov

Jan. 2013

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Peters (D)

1130 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Local Phone # 248.273.4227
peters.house.gov/contact

Jan. 2011

STATE OFFICIALS

4-year terms expire 1/2011

Governor Jennifer Granholm (D)

Romney Bldg., 111 S. Capitol Ave.
P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909

Lt. Governor John Cherry, Jr. (D)

Romney Bldg., 111 S. Capitol Ave.
P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909
ltgovcherry@michigan.gov

Secretary of State Terry Lynn Land (R)

Treasury Bldg., 430 W. Allegan
P.O. Box 30045, Lansing, MI
Toll Free 888.767.6424
secretary@michigan.gov

Attorney General Mike Cox (R)

G. Mennen Williams Bldg.
P.O. Box 30212, Lansing, MI 48909
Toll Free 877.765.8388
miag@michigan.gov

State Senator Gilda Jacobs (D)

Room 1015 Farnum Bldg., Lansing, MI 48909
Toll Free 888.937.4453
SenGJacobs@senate.michigan.gov

State Representative Chuck Moss (R) Term expires

Room SO889 House Office Bldg.,
Lansing, MI 48909
Toll Free 877.707.6677
ChuckMoss@house.mi.gov

1/2011