



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Winter, 2011

WINTER MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

State & County Roads

Did winter come roaring in or what? One day was warm temperatures and the next—the first snowstorm of the season.

As with the rest of Michigan, the Road Commission for Oakland County is pretty strapped for cash and this will come into play if there's a lot of snow or ice to deal with this winter.

The Road Commission plows many of the state highways, like Telegraph, for the State of Michigan, along with its own County roads such as Thirteen & Fourteen Mile Roads.



Due to declining revenues, staffing within the Road Commission has dwindled. If wicked weather occurs in a back-to-back storm, it may take awhile to clear the roads.

No matter what, drivers are asked to use caution at all times.

Village Roads

As in past years, the Village contracts with Johnson Landscaping for snow removal services. Once two inches of snow has accumulated on the roads, the plows are called out.

If conditions warrant, extra work is authorized. The decision to salt the roads is based on the assessment of the police department taking into consideration current weather as well as local forecasts.

As experienced in the recent snowfall, salt becomes less effective when the temperature dips below 20 degrees. 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 instructed their snow removal contractors to abide by the law.

Plowing snow across a road
Cont. on Page 4

TELEGRAPH ROAD RECONSTRUCTION DRAGS ON

It was a long, tough summer with all the road construction projects going on. But if a survey was taken, the worst road project would probably be Telegraph Road. No matter which way one drove, it seemed there was congestion everywhere.

The winter months will provide a temporary respite. But those orange barrels and cones will reappear in the spring and work will begin as soon as the weather permits.

Searching for any good news, road reconstruction this coming construction season will only be on northbound Telegraph between 12 1/2 Mile and Maple Roads. Look for it to start in mid-April and run through August.



Restoration work will roll out right behind the construction. This probably will result in additional lane closures so that materials can be delivered and crews can work in a safe environment.

The Village will be working with MDOT relative to the number of trees to be planted as well as the species. The plan is to strategically place groupings of trees that will add color and beauty along the roadside.

FRANKLIN OPENS NEW ICE RINK

There's a new addition to the Village Green in Franklin this winter. It's an outdoor skating rink. Nicer yet, it's open to residents of Bingham Farms.

And it's big! It measures 52' by 72'. The rink is open from sunrise to sunset for as long as Mother Nature cooperates.

It took more than 12,000 gallons of water to fill the rink. The rink is a joint effort of a number of public and private entities. Since Franklin does not have city water, Bingham Farms provided access to water. The Franklin Bingham Fire Dept. used their tank trucks to transport the water and fill the rink.

Material for the rink was do-

nated by the owner of the new ice cream and coffee shop in downtown Franklin.

Since this is an outdoor rink, Mother Nature will play a major role in maintaining the ice.

Check the Village website for ongoing updates regarding the rink.

So put on warm clothing, grab your kids, bring your skates and have a cool family fun day.



VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2011

January 24
February 28
March 28

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

NEW THIRTEEN MILE RD. BRIDGE ON THE DRAWING BOARD

Some residents may not have realized that there is a bridge on Thirteen Mile Rd., just west of Bingham Woods Condominiums.

Many residents probably didn't know that this bridge has been on the Critical Bridge List for Oakland County for the past five years.

Funding for replacement of bridges is highly competitive. The Thirteen Mile Rd. bridge has finally received funding through the Local Bridge Program, operated by the Michigan Dept. of Transportation (MDOT). It includes a combination of state and federal funding.

For the Thirteen Mile bridge, just over \$2 million in Local Bridge Program funding was approved. This will

cover 95 percent of the construction cost to replace the bridge. The Road Commission for Oakland County will cover the remaining 5 percent of the construction cost.

The Road Commission and the Village will pay for other costs associated with the project including the cost to design the bridge, to purchase any necessary additional right-of-way as well as general administrative costs.

Work is scheduled to begin in 2013.



NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED

Check out the newly redesigned Village website at www.binghamfarms.org.

It's crisp. It's fresh. And it's full of new information.

The site was designed with our residents in mind. It should be an extremely user friendly experience, as well as an invaluable communication tool.



There are pages for information on the Village itself, a government page that details the various elements of governing in the Village, a resident's page providing information pertinent to a property owner and a new business page that identifies the business property owners and management companies.

You will find Minutes on Demand which allows site users to find the Village meeting agendas or minutes that they are looking for in seconds, allowing for optimum expedited information gathering.

There are special links to contact the Birmingham Area Cable Board which accepts complaints regarding the TV providers in the Village as well as links to Friends of the Rouge, the Village newsletter and Village Code Book.

The most up-to-date news and information about Bingham Farms can also be found on the site, along with important contact information, forms and so much more.

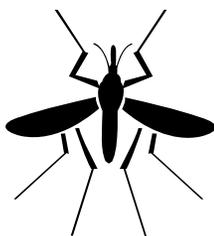
For all things Bingham Farms, visit www.binghamfarms.org today.

YEAR END RESULTS ARE IN. CASES OF WEST NILE VIRUS CLIMBED.

Just when you thought we had it beat, those pesky mosquitoes had a banner year. There were 29 cases of West Nile Virus reported; 5 of those in Oakland County. Macomb County had the highest number of reported cases at 11.

While these numbers are far lower than the peak in 2002, when there were 644 human cases, it shows this problem is not going away.

These results show that precautionary measures must be taken to avoid being bitten by the mosquito.



Most people infected with West Nile do not show any symptoms. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 3 to 14 days after being bit. 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. believes that prevention is the best method to combat the virus. Specifically,

- ♦ Reduce areas where mosquitoes breed,
- ♦ Repel to protect against mosquitoes,

- ♦ 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 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 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

FIRST DAY OF SPRING MARCH 13



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David M. Leckie

Greetings from the corner.

Well winter arrived abruptly with our first snowfall of the season which was followed by bitter cold. Make sure that your furnaces are operating correctly. There's nothing worse if the furnace stops working.

Winter weather makes driving a challenge what with changing conditions in a matter of hours. The Village does its best to stay on top of conditions, but drivers must use caution. Take into consideration road conditions when driving.

A few other recommendations when driving through the Village include:

- ♦ Lower your speed to match road conditions.
- ♦ Keep your eye out for pedestrians, and
- ♦ Maintain a safe distance between you and the pedestrians.

See the other winter-related tips on Pg. 5.

In other Village news, our fiscal year budgeting process is underway. The challenge will be matching operational expenses with forecasted revenues. Declining state revenues and falling property values are definitely impacting the bottom line.

There is some good news however. The recent Village audit showed us the Village is in stable financial condition as a result of tight spending controls. Unlike many municipalities, the Village has maintained an adequate fund balance that will allow us to continue offering the services our residents expect.

The new budget will be balanced, however, some Village projects, such as final road projects, may be delayed. Fortunately, we are almost done with every road in the Village.

As the snow mounts up I wouldn't blame anyone for heading south or west in search of warmer weather. Don't forget to fill out the form at the Franklin/Bingham Police Department letting them know the particulars just in case. Call the Franklin Bingham police department for the form at 248.626.9672 We can't be too safe these days.

For those of us who can't get away, I guess we'll just hunker down, hang tough and ride out another Michigan Winter.

Happy New Year to all our residents and their families.

Almost a Perfect Year

It seemed at the last minute there would be nothing to write about for the Village newsletter. Yes, we in Bingham Farms Mobile Watch have had our Holidayfest in early December, with champagne and hors d'oeuvres, and we talked about our Village tours in 2010 and whether we could beat the record set in 2009 (probably not quite).

But that was all before a late news flash from our police department about two attempted home invasions in Bingham Farms, earlier in December. And these were in a condo area, where homes are closer together than in other areas of the Village. What it says is that no matter how careful Bingham Farms Mobile Watch is, and how many Village tours we do, there is always the possibility of some attempted "home invasion" like those that occurred in Bingham Woods this month, in daylight hours.

Fortunately, neither attempt was successful, perhaps because the entry was too difficult or conceivably because someone knew that Mobile Watch was often in the area. Whatever the reason, we can be thankful that neither attempt succeeded.

What it means to the rest of us, however, is that we must be extremely careful when we leave home, even for a short time (it doesn't take long for a break-in). Make sure all the windows and doors are locked, and all alarms are set. Even a brief absence leaves a "break-in" opportunity.

We have had an uneventful year until now, almost a Perfect Year, with no attempts in the entire Village until these. In 2011 Bingham Farms Mobile Watch will do its best to spot anything that looks suspicious. But we can't do it alone, and we are counting on you to keep things secure in your home at all times.

Let's hope that together we have a non-eventful and happy New Year

From Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

BINGHAM FARMS VOTERS

TURN OUT FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

News articles often spout the percentage of voter turnout in a specific election. Do you ever wonder how many of your neighbors turned out?

Bingham Farms voters should be very proud. More than 74% turned out to cast their votes (or sent in absentee ballots), compared to 54% county-wide.

As far as the state proposals here is how Bingham Farms voted: Proposal 1—convene constitutional convention Yes 35% No 64%

Proposal 2—prohibiting felons from holding certain types of public employment Yes 78% No 22%

The next Village election will take place in September, 2011. Three trustee positions will be on the ballot. More information will be provided as filing deadlines approach.



In the meantime, way to go Bingham Farms voters for exercising your right to vote.

NOW AVAILABLE AT THE VILLAGE OFFICE

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

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.

The maps are compliments of the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber. Supplies are limited so stop in the Village office soon to pick up a copy.



Winter Maintenance Cont. from Page 1

way leaves what are known as "snow rows". These deposits create a safety problem for motorists and pedestrians and also prevents the Village contractor from properly clearing the streets.

The Village is not alone enforcing this state 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.

PLEASE NOTE: When a tree falls across the road, the Village contractor cuts the tree so the road is passable. If the tree trunk is in the Village right of way, then the Village is responsible for its removal. If the trunk is on private property, it is the property owner's responsibility to remove all the debris. Any questions, call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

STATE PARKS PASS OPTION IMPLEMENTED

A new State Parks Pass project has been implemented and it could save State Parks users a lot of money.

It's called the Recreation Passport which replaces the traditional state park and boating "window stickers".

Just sign up for it when you renew your vehicle plate registration. The cost will be \$10. When residents opt to pay the \$10 passport fee at the time of plate renewals, you will enjoy a per-vehicle savings of nearly 60% over the current \$24 annual Motor Vehicle Permit fee.



The thought behind the concept is that the less expensive fee will encourage all Michigan residents to buy the Recreation Passport for every vehicle registered, that according to Recreation Division Chief Ron Olson.

The objective is to provide a more stable funding source for state parks, which lost all general taxpayer support in 2004.

The need for more money is great. In 2011, all fund balances in the restricted funds that operate state parks will be exhausted. There are more than \$38 million in annual unmet needs for failing infrastructure.

It's hoped that the new system will generate the additional funding.

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

DTE METER READING GOING WIRELESS

DTE is embarking on a new program for meter reading using the latest wireless technology.

Here's how it works.

- An electric meter is installed at your home.
- The meter transmits your utility usage to DTE via a secure radio frequency.
- That data is sent to their billing system.
- The monthly utility bill is generated using the transmitted information.



There are many benefits to the consumer.

- Meter reading will be accessed remotely, eliminating the need for meter readers to enter a homeowner's yard.
- Estimated bills will be eliminated.
- Meters will have automatic power-outage detection. **BUT THIS DOES NOT ELIMINATE CALLING IN ANY OUTAGES.**
- Once fully implemented, a customer will be able to track and manage energy consumption online.

DTE has started test sites in less populated areas prior to launching area-wide.

According to its rollout schedule, installation in Bingham Farms should be in late 2011 or early 2012.

CHECK OUT THE VILLAGE'S NEW WEBSITE

www.binghamfarms.org

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SPECIAL EVENTS AND IMPORTANT NOTICES

WINTER TRAVEL TIPS

Get ready for another unpredictable Michigan winter: icy windshields and roads, cold feet, runny noses, and kids turning pale for lack of exposure to the sun.

Here are a few tips and reminders to survive the cold.

1. Have your furnace checked to make sure it is clean and safe. Make certain that your carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are functioning. If you have a fireplace, check the chimney to make sure that it is not blocked or in need of the services of a chimneysweep.
2. Have good tires and good wiper-blades.
3. Keep the gas tank full.
4. Keep extra clothing in the car - parka, boots, gloves, and a blanket just in case.
5. Take your cell phone with you.
6. Carry a bag of sand, rock salt, or kitty litter in the trunk in case it's needed for traction.
7. Keep a snow shovel in the car. Better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it.

Drive with extra care, allowing extra time to get to your destination. Enjoy a safe and beautiful Michigan winter!

From the F.B.F.D.

OAKLAND COUNTY OFFERS PLENTY OF WINTER FUN

Remember way back when we were kids and the fun we had flying down the sled hill. Oakland County has created the fun of sledding with a 325-foot hill at Waterford Oaks.

The hill will be open as soon as there is sufficient snow. The cost is \$0. That's right. And parking - that's also free.



Just bring your sled, some hot chocolate and enjoy some quality time with your children.

There are other winter activities offered by the County like snowshoeing or cross country skiing.

Look for *Moonlight Adventures*, *Cabin Fever Cure* and *Cross-country Ski Schools*, offered in January and February at various park locations.

The annual *Fire & Ice Festival* in downtown Rochester offers winter family fun and excitement, including fireworks!

Dog lovers will enjoy *Cannines*, *Coffee and Conversation*, *Happy Tails Trail Walks* and even a *Dog Sledding Demonstration* at Oakland County Parks and Recreation's three dog parks.

The Winter Nature Center at Independence Oaks County Park offers up several *Snowshoe Events*, a *Winter Star Party* and the popular *Tuning Your Tot into Winter* program for preschoolers.

There's lots more to do at Oakland County Parks.

Check out the Event Calendar for specific dates and times under Things to Do at

www.destinationoakland.com

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE BALDWIN LIBRARY

Baldwin Public Library is heading into 2011 with a fresh vision for the future. We recently wrapped up our strategic planning process and are beginning the work to bring the plan to life so that we can better serve you! For details, please visit www.baldwinlib.org/strategicplan.

Interested in learning about sleep patterns, insomnia and helpful tips for getting a good night's sleep? Join us for our Sleep Issues for Seniors program presented with Beaumont Hospitals and the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council on Tuesday, January 11 at 1 p.m.

Baldwin has partnered with The Idea Lab to offer two writing workshops this winter. The Crafting Characters workshop will take place on Saturday, January 15 at 2 p.m. and the Mythic Journey workshop will take place on Saturday, February 19 at 2 p.m. Please visit www.TheIdeaLab.ning.com/events for more information!

Looking for something fun to do on Midwinter Break? Come to the Youth Room between February 21 and 25 for a fun selection of Egyptian themed programs and events! The lineup includes story time, a LEGO contest, crafts throughout the week, and a life-size puppets workshop!

You can stay current on what's happening at the Library by registering for Baldwin's eNews at www.baldwinlib.org/enews.

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

From The Baldwin Library

CHECK OUT

THE NEW

VILLAGE WEBSITE

FOR ALL THE NEWS

www.binghamfarms.org

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

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.

RECYCLING TIPS

Over the past few years the number of containers that can be recycled has grown.

Green wine bottles can now be recycled.

Large mouthed plastic containers can be recycled.

Did you know you can recycle all those plastic grocery bags?

You can even recycle shredded paper. Just put it in a see-through plastic bag and tie it closed. Place in your recycle bin.



Even junk mail, including the envelopes can be recycled.

The Village now has just one recycling bin since all the separation is done at the recycling center. Call the Village office 248.644.0044 if you need a new bin. The cost is just \$12.

To dispose of household hazardous waste, call SOCRRA at 248.288.5153 for an appointment. Log on to www.socrra.org for more info.

Latex paint is not a hazardous material. See the instructions on Pg. 7 for the proper way to dispose of latex paint.

PLACE ALL GARBAGE & RECYCLING AT THE STREET BY 7:00 A.M. THURSDAY MORNING



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

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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.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS! CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

Spring forward and fall back. Come March 13th, 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.



HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

JANUARY

Birmingham

“1940’s Radio Hour” at the Village Playhouse
Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 248-644-2075



Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra
“French with a Scottish Accent”, Feb. 13, Temple Israel

Birmingham Concert Band “Ensembles—Big & Small”
Jan. 30 Kirk of the Hills

Baldwin Library—Knitting Group Jan 11 & 25 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 31-Feb. 4 & Feb. 7-11 - Birmingham Restaurant Week

FEBRUARY

“1940’S Radio Hour” at the Village Playhouse Feb. 4, 5, & 6
“Play It Again, Sam” Mar. 18, 19, 20 & 25, 26, 27

Orion Oaks Dog Park—Canines, Coffee & Conversation -
Feb. 5 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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PAID
U.S. Postage
Birmingham, MI
Permit No. 217

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The Bingham Farms Post is published quarterly by the Village of Bingham Farms.
Editor: Kathryn Haganan
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Website: www.binghamfarms.org
The next edition of the Post is scheduled for April, 2011. Deadline for submission of articles is February 16, 2011.
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