



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Winter, 2012

WINTER MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

State & County Roads

OK. Unlike last year, snow hasn't blanketed us yet. But it will sooner or later.

Budget crunches again will pretty much strap the Road Commission for Oakland County this will be most evident 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.

Remember, 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

POLICE OFFICES NOW CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

The Franklin Bingham Police Department administrative offices will be closed on Fridays until further notice. This is the administrative office and does not impact police staffing or patrols.

The Franklin Village Council took the extraordinary measure due to budget constraints.

In November Franklin voters turned down a millage proposal that was to raise additional money to cover the cost of police and fire services.

Franklin's Council will try again and has placed two millage proposals on the February 28th primary ballot. One is to restore the fire millage and the other, a general fund millage to earmark

funds for the operation of the police department and restore their fund balance.

Therefore, the police building will be open Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

This **does not** impact police coverage of the Village. All the police officers will be on their regular shifts.

If there is an accident, dial 9-1-1. For non-emergency matters that require the assistance of a police officer, dial dispatch at 626.5444.



TELEGRAPH RD IS DONE BUT WHAT'S NEXT?

After two years, MDOT finally finished the seemingly never-ending road reconstruction project on Telegraph Rd. The subcontractor finally planted all 91 replacement trees.

However, the respite will not be for long. The next major project on the construction calendar is the replacement of the bridge on Thirteen Mile Rd. Yes, there is actually a bridge in Bingham Farms. It is located between Bingham Road and Bingham Farms Elementary School.



This work is slated to begin in June of 2013. Preliminary plans have been drawn. Several of the utility companies are already starting work to move underground lines to accommodate the construction.

Unfortunately, this project will close Thirteen Mile Rd. for at least a month.

The good news is the reconstruction might alleviate some of residents' concerns about line of sight. The existing dip in the road should be minimized as part of the reconstruction.

The Village has requested that the bridge plans include a pedestrian walkway. At this point in time, it is not known whether the Road Commission has enough of an easement to ac-

Cont. on Page 5

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2012

**January 23
February 27
March 26**

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

FRANKLIN ICE RINK TO OPEN SOON

The ice rink in Franklin is back for another season. All that's needed now is cold weather.

The rink is pretty big. It measures 52' by 72'. The rink holds more than 12,000 gallons of water. It is open from sunrise to sunset for as long as Mother Nature cooperates.

The rink is made possible through a joint effort of a number of public and private entities.

Since Franklin does not have city water, Bingham Farms has provided access to water. The Franklin Bingham Fire Dept. pitches in too by using their tank trucks to transport the water and fill the rink.

Material for the rink was donated by the owner of the new ice cream

and coffee shop in downtown Franklin.

As with any outdoor rink, Mother Nature plays a major role in keeping it cold enough to freeze the water.

Check the Village website (www.binghamfarms.org) for ongoing updates regarding the rink or just drive by the Village Green.

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

Bingham Farms residents are more than welcome to use the rink.



VILLAGE WEBSITE KEEPS RESIDENTS INFORMED

Have you visited the Village website recently? If not, take a few minutes to browse www.binghamfarms.org.

It has tons of information. Minutes of all Village meetings is on the site. It includes meetings of the Village Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Board.

While you're at it, click on the link at the bottom of the home page, "Stay Informed". It will keep you in the know when the Village sends out email alerts. These include immediate notification of police activity or important Village notifications.



Just recently, the Village sent out email blasts about thieves rifling through cars, info on B&Es in Franklin and a notice when the next Quarterly Newsletter has been posted online.

Due to budget constraints, the Village newsletter, "The Bingham Farms Post", is now only available online. Mailing of the newsletter ended in September of this year, another victim of falling revenues. Also, past newsletters may also be accessed online.

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

If you have any questions, please give the Village office a call at 248.644.0044.

WEST NILE VIRUS STILL GOING STRONG IN 2011

Another banner year for West Nile Virus. There were 33 cases of West Nile Virus reported up from 29 last year. The hardest hit was Wayne County with 13 cases and Macomb County with 8. Oakland County reported just 2.

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 and increasing chances of contracting the virus..

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. reiterates 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.

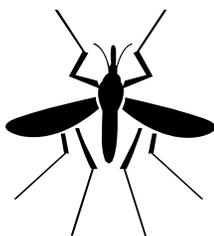
Other measures that can reduce the risk of contracting the virus include:

- ♦ 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 20



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David M. Leckie

Greetings from the corner.

What a difference a year makes. This time last year, we had an early snowfall which was followed by cold arctic air. It seems the rain just won't let up. Did you know that 2011 will go down in Michigan's record book for the most rainfall.

However, winter will eventually come and thus a few tips to keep safe. Winter weather can make driving a challenge with changing conditions in a matter of hours. The Village does its best to stay on top of conditions, but drivers must use caution.

A few other recommendations when driving through the Village:

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

In other Village news, the Village is doing well in keeping to its budget for 2011-2012. We've been able to balance unexpected expenses to some unbudgeted revenue.

Work on our next fiscal year budget begins and the challenge will once again be matching operational expenses with forecasted revenues. Declining state revenues and falling property

values continue to impact our financial picture.

Please note that the Franklin/Bingham Police Dept. administrative office will be operating only four days a week as Franklin deals with some budget shortfalls. Hopefully, this will be resolved in February when Franklin voters consider two separate millages to fund police and fire. Police patrols and staffing are not affected.

Have you signed up for the Village's email blast through GovDelivery. Get important alerts via your email. If you need help, just call the Village office at 248.644.0044. It's getting rave reviews.

When 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 where you will be and a contact number. 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.

VILLAGE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Have you noticed all the littering around the Village? It seems to be escalating.

The Village does not have the money to hire a contractor to pick up the debris on a regular basis. Therefore, if every resident picked up a little bit of the litter, especially along their property lines, it would go a long way in cleaning up the Village.

The litter can come from all avenues be it contractors, kids or others. So, when you're out for a walk, it would be a tremendous help if a piece or two of

litter is picked up.

And if you happen to see a culprit, try to get a description, a company name or license plate. The officers of the Franklin Bingham Farms police department have a great knack of tracking these folks down.

Any help is greatly appreciated.



ANOTHER SOCIAL EVENT?

It almost seems like members of Bingham Farms Mobile Watch spend all their time on social activities. Well, for the record, we are reaching new highs on the number of our monthly Village tours taken, and we will have more on that in the next Village newsletter article. But Mobile Watch does enjoy its social activities. As we have noted before, we host a member-supplied picnic dinner in August (with merchant supplied prizes) for the members of our police and fire departments and their families. And normally in the spring we have a special program with speaker, discussing matters like personal and home security.

However, one of the highlights of the year is our Holidayfest, held in December. We did that again just a few weeks ago. As usual, we had a brief business meeting, followed by our annual celebration complete with champagne and some wonderful hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, all member-supplied.

We will not know until December is closed how well we did in 2011, but we celebrated anyway.

So you can see there is more to being a Mobile Watch member than just driving around the Village. That is still our main purpose, watching your home, and we do it diligently and regularly. But right now we have another enjoyable event coming up, and we look forward to s p r i n g .

It doesn't take much training to become a Mobile Watch member and there is no money involved. So, if you would like to join a group of "doers" and make a contribution to your Village while having a good time, call Dick Holloway at 248.644.2622 for more information or come and guest with us on the first Wednesday of any month at 7:30 pm at the Bingham Woods clubhouse.

After coffee and a cookie, you will still be home by nine.

From Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

GET ONE UP ON THOSE PESKY RACOONS

It never fails. You put your rubbish at the street the night before trash pick up and voila, those raccoons have strewn rubbish all over the place.

It doesn't matter if you put a cover on the garbage can. Unless you have a hefty lock on it, those raccoons have the uncanny ability of getting those lids off.



In browsing the web, there was a site that gave a possible solution. Try spraying some ammonia inside the garbage cans and on the plastic bags placed inside. Apparently, raccoons don't like the smell.

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.

SWIMMING POOLS MUST BE MAINTAINED

It may not be the season for swimming but it may be the perfect time for pool owners to check the condition of their pools and the fences surrounding the pool.

State law and Village ordinances mandate that all pools be in good working order at all times. It does not matter whether there is a cover on the pool. **If a pool is not in working order, it needs to be removed or repaired.**



The Village must look out for the health and safety of its residents. A non-working pool can be an area where bacteria and mosquitoes can breed and become a major problem.

A permit to remove a pool is necessary. The City of Southfield Building Dept. handles all permits.

Any questions, contact the Village office at 248.644.0044.

CHECK OUT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE FOR ALL THE NEWS
www.binghamfarms.org

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

COUNCIL CONSIDERS CHANGING DATE OF VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Council trustees are discussing the possibility of changing the date of the Village's biennial elections from September of odd numbered years to November of even-numbered years. This move would place Village elections at the same time as state and national elections.

The move to the new date is sparked by Council's efforts to reduce costs. The cost to run the Village biennial election is approximately \$2300. This amount includes cost of publishing legal notices, election inspector pay, postage and programming.



It does **not** include the time for office staff to process the absentee ballots, test the election equipment, compile the results and send data up to the County.

Southfield Township runs the state and national elections so there should be no cost to the Village to have its ballot tacked on.

The Village section of the ballot would be at the end of all the other ballot issues.

Besides the cost savings, Council believes this move could increase the number of voters participating in the village election.

To effect this change, trustee terms would be extended one time only by 14 months so that terms would end in even numbered years instead of the existing odd-numbered years.

For example, trustee terms that expire in September 2013 would be extended to November 2014 and trustee terms that expire in September 2015 would be extended to November 2016.

This would be a one time extension. After that, the terms return to 4-years.

What do you think?

Email your opinion to info@binghamfarms.org

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.

**Cont. from Pg. 1
Telegraph Rd.**

commodate this. If the Road Commission has to secure additional easements, it could effect the viability of the walkway.

The Road Commission has received a federal grant to cover the cost of the bridge but that does not include the cost of the walkway. That will be paid by the Village using Act 51 funds received from the state.

2012 FIRE & ICE FEST ACTIVITIES

The Fire & Ice Fest in downtown Rochester is back for a second year. Sponsored by Oakland County and the DDA of Rochester, it will run from Friday, January 27th from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Saturday January 28th from 10:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 29th from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lots of activities are planned, from snowshoeing and cross country skiing to ice carving. How about snowboarding demonstrations and competitions? They have it all.

Log on to www.destinationoakland.com and click on "thingstodo" to get the lowdown on all the events.

Don't forget Fido this winter. The County Dog Parks are open all year round. There's lots to do this winter at nominal cost. Take a good look at the County's [destinationoakland](http://destinationoakland.com) website.



TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE

- Always keep all exterior doors locked including garages and storage sheds.
- Always activate your alarm system while you are away.
- Always submit a "**Vacation House Check**" form to the Police Department prior to leaving on vacation and ask a trusted neighbor to watch your house.
- Always report any suspicious person or activity immediately to the Police Department at the following numbers:

**Non-Emergencies: 248. 626.5444
or Emergencies: 911.**

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE BALDWIN LIBRARY

Join the Baldwin Public Library as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War with a five-part reading and discussion series led by Dr. Roy Finkenbine of the University of Detroit-Mercy. Series starts in March. See www.baldwinlib.org/letstalkcw for details and registration information. *Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War*, a reading and discussion series, has been made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

Detroit-born author, Paul Clemens, author of *Punching Out: One Year in a Closing Detroit Auto Plant*, will speak at Baldwin on Wednesday, February 1 at 7 p.m. The Budd Company auto-parts plant closed in 2006, one casualty of the decline in manufacturing in our area. You will have a new understanding of Detroit, "world capital of closed auto plants." Presented by the Jane Cameron Endowment Fund.

Want to figure out how to download eBooks from the Library? Join us for "Introduction to eBooks and eAudiobooks" on Saturday, January 7 at 2 p.m. or Monday, February 6 at 7 p.m. Call 248-554-4650 to register.

Mr. Seley and the Troublemakers present "Cupcakeasaurus" on Tuesday, February 21 at 2 p.m. for all ages. Featuring original music from his two hit albums; join Birmingham teacher Mr. Seley and his rock band as they perform high energy music for the whole family to enjoy.

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



Franklin Police Officers Association

Dear Village Residents,

The Franklin Police Officers Association is reaching out to you, our residents for some help and support. In January 2011, the Franklin Police Officers Association (FPOA) founded the Franklin Police Officers Association Honor Fund. The Franklin Police Officers Association Honor Fund was established as a way for Officers to show support and encouragement to colleagues during significant events in their lives or other causes which benefit the Franklin Police Officers Association, other police department personnel and various civic initiatives.

The FPOA Honor Fund benefits Officers during specific life events such as death or severe illness of the Officer, their spouse or immediate family member, the retirement of an Officer and for the birth or adoption of a child. The Honor Fund also allows our Association to send money to families of Michigan Officers who have fallen in the line of duty as well as promote various civic initiatives for both Franklin and Bingham Farms Villages.

In order to sustain the fund, the FPOA has organized various events and initiatives along with annual contributions from our Officers, which help supplement the fund. Last year the FPOA in conjunction with the Sterling Heights Police Honor Guard successfully organized a fundraising event with the help from several local residents and businesses from both communities. The donations raised from this event helped launch the FPOA Honor Fund.

Unfortunately, our Association is unable to host a formal fundraising event this year, which is why we are reaching out to the community for some assistance. The Franklin Police Officers Association is formally requesting monetary donations to help us continue to support and sustain our honor fund. All proceeds will go directly into the fund, which is overseen by the FPOA Honor Fund Board. If you are unable to contribute at this time we completely understand and ask for your continued moral support.

For clarification, this fundraising effort is for the benefit of the Franklin Police Officers Association and other charitable initiatives supported by the Association. If you would like to make a donation you can make your check payable to: **Franklin Police Officers Association**. You can mail your donation to: **PO BOX 250051, Franklin MI 48025**. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact us for your needs.



GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSING OF LATEX PAINT

In an effort to help residents dispose of those half empty paint cans and limit the number of cans dropped off at SOCRRA, please note **latex paint is not a Household Hazardous Waste**. It may be discarded on the regular Thursday rubbish pick up. However, because latex paint is considered a liquid, it must be dried first to turn it into a solid. ***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 11th, we give back that extra hour of sleep gained in the fall.

Turn your clocks ahead one hour on 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. It always falls on the second Sunday of March.

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

“Lost In Yonkers” at the Village Playhouse
Jan. 13-22 248.644.2075

Classical Brunch at the Community House
Jan. 22

Birmingham Restaurant Week - Jan. 30-Jan. 31

FEBRUARY

Restaurant Week - Birmingham Feb. 1-3 & Feb. 6-10

Classical Brunch at the Community House Feb. 19

MARCH

Birmingham

“Lucky Stiff” at the Village Playhouse Mar. 9-25
248.644.2075

Community House Gala - Mar. 24

Classical Brunch at the Community House Mar. 25



WINTER PREDICTIONS FROM THE FARMERS’ ALMANAC

It’s quite fun to read the Farmers’ Almanac and see how close their long term weather predictions are to the actual weather.

Overall, for the winter of 2012 the Midwest is expected to see average temperatures, be very wet and very white.



January

1st-3rd. Light snows.

4th-7th. Light snows continue, then clearing.

8th-11th. Periods of snow and flurries again for most areas.

12th-15th. Clearing skies.

16th-19th. Light snow, flurries.

20th-23rd. Clouding up, with snow developing.

24th-27th. Clearing skies are accompanied by blustery winds.

February

1st-3rd. Fair skies.

4th-7th. Stormy conditions

8th-11th. Fair

12th-15th. Flurries, especially Great Lakes.

16th-19th. Stormy conditions spread in from west.

20th-23rd. Mostly fair.

24th-29th. Snow flurries, chiefly Great Lakes.

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

Editor: Kathryn Hagaman
clerk@binghamfarms.org

The next edition of the Post is scheduled for April 2012. Deadline for submission of articles is March 15, 2012.

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