



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Winter, 2013

WINTER MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

NEW BRIDGE ON THIRTEEN MILE RD.

State & County Roads

Will Michigan residents face another mild winter or will we get blasted with snow, ice and wind? The Farmer's Almanac shows perhaps one major storm.

But the Road Commission will be ready no matter what.

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 so part time help will be used. 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.

Private Driveways

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.

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MORE NEW FACES ON COUNCIL

It's been a whirlwind of changes on Village Council this year. It all started with passing of Council President David Leckie in June.

At that time, Delores Tripp stepped up fill the President seat. And Mel Etnson was appointed President Pro-Tem.

With these changes, a seat on Council became vacant and Council tapped Larry Freedman to fill the vacant position.

Ms. Tripp had been toying with the idea of moving on and eventually made the decision to settle out West. Seattle, Washington is now her home.

The same process was repeated.

Next up was the appointment of Jeffrey Modell to succeed Ms. Tripp.

With this appointment another Council seat became vacant, to which Carl Grenadier was appointed.

All these appointments are effective until the next Village election, which now will be November 2014. The State legislature just passed laws setting local elections for November of even years to coincide with other state and national elections.

The bigger issue the Village faces is to find people who are interested in volunteering to help keep the Village not only running smoothly, but to keep the Village the jewel that it is.

Check out the Village website to see the current line up of Council members.

www.binghamfarms.org

Design plans are almost finished for the new bridge on Thirteen Mile Rd. Final approvals from the State are being secured.

Along with the construction plans, the Village is moving forward on the aesthetic portion of the bridge. The concrete portions of the bridge look like stone by using a stamped-concrete product. The reason the Village is undertaking this extra feature is that the bridge will be longer and much more noticeable. It will also protect property owners who will see the back side of the bridge.



As previously reported, a pedestrian sidewalk has been incorporated into the bridge. This will provide pedestrians with a far safer way to negotiate Thirteen Mile Rd. In addition, the Village will have constructed an additional sidewalk that will connect to Telegraph Rd. and to Bingham Farms Elementary School.

The project is slated to begin in June of 2013, shortly after the schools close for the summer. And this means Thirteen Mile Rd. will once again be closed, this time for the entire summer.

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VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2013

**January 28
February 25
March 18**

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

FIRE DEPT. TRAINING GOES REAL TIME

What a rare opportunity. The Franklin Bingham Farms Fire Dept. personnel participated in realistic live training in a house that was scheduled to be demolished. The home was located on Bingham Lane.

All the action occurred on Sunday December 2nd. With Fire Chief Tony Averbuch at the helm, 20 firefighters were involved in search and rescue scenarios throughout the home. As the home was 60-70 years old, it allowed for searches through numerous rooms with lots of hallway travel between them.

During the training scenarios, smoldering fires were lit in the fireplaces (keeping the flue closed) which resulted in smoke throughout the house. Once this smoke caused visibility to diminish to an extent suitable for training, groups of firefighters were instructed to search the home with charged hose lines to locate the "fire". The target was a hand light switched on to keep the fireplace smoke working through the morning. Once located, fire personnel were to "extinguish" the found fire with their hose line.

While the search for the fire took place, other groups were assembled to search the first floor and basement to locate victims. If any were found during training evolutions, the "victim" would be carried from the home.

During the course of the morning training, several evolutions took place and upon conclusion, the fireplace fires were extinguished, the house was

Cont'd on Pg. 5



NEW RESTAURANTS SLATED TO OPEN IN THE SPRING

It may not look like much right now, but ground has been broken to build an outlot building in front of Bingham Center (30600-30800 Telegraph Rd.)

The 9200 square foot building will house four restaurants. The Village will welcome Qdoba, DiBella's Old Fashioned Submarines, Halo Burger and a Sushi restaurant.

This project was made possible under a Special Land Use which established parameters under which such a building could be constructed. All Village entities were involved in the process including the Design Review Board, the Planning Commission

as well as Council.

The concept came about from two sources. The first was a Business Task Force that identified areas for improvement in the office district, which included the ability to have restaurants close by so employees did not have to drive far to get lunch.



The idea then took flight when a developer came in with concept plans.

Restaurants are expected to open in late spring.

WEST NILE VIRUS STILL GOING STRONG IN 2012

Looks like the West Nile Virus came back with a vengeance this year. There were just over 200 cases reported, up dramatically from the 33 cases last year. Once again, The hardest hit was Wayne County with 83 with Oakland County reporting 23.

These results show that precautionary measures must be taken seriously 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:

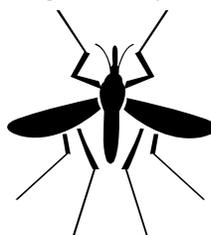
- ♦ Repair all holes in window and screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- ♦ Empty water from mosquito breeding sites such as buckets, barrels, cans, old tires, or similar sites.
- ♦ Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active (dawn and dusk).
- ♦ Wear light colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when out doors.
- ♦ 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



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER **JEFFREY D. MODELL**

I am grateful my family lives in Bingham Farms, a treed oasis centrally located in metropolitan Detroit. Many years ago when it appeared I was having a heart attack, one of our Police Officers reached me in under two minutes, followed by at least twelve of our Fire Department crew within three.

The Village just received a clean audit, and despite the recession managed to avoid dipping into accumulated surplus funds to cover 2012 expenses. Our costs are low because we have a lean, experienced Village staff who did not receive cost of living increases for the bulk of the recession; we share Police and Fire Departments with Franklin, and rely on concerned volunteers ranging from volunteer fire fighters to our unpaid Village Council.

If you want to help keep the Village great, please express your willingness to serve on one of our boards or commissions to our Clerk, Kathy Haganman, at 248.644.0044 or

clerk@binghamfarms.org. Our bench consists of the few and the need for fresh talent is perpetual.

Village Council recently approved a new electrical generator ordinance. Permanent generators may only be placed near the house, not at the property lines, out of consideration for neighbors.

Our Planning Commission improved the Business District sign ordinance, a major project balancing commercial and safety needs with aesthetics.

Finally, the Village has managed to attract new development in the form of an out-lot building set to house several small restaurants. This project is now under construction with another potential project in the pipeline.

On behalf of your Village Council and the Bingham Farms staff, we wish you the best for the holidays and New Year.

A Double Purpose Meeting

Actually a triple purpose meeting, as Bingham Farms Mobile Watch meets each month to be with friends and to sign up for Village tours.

And we did just that this December. But we had two other reasons to be together.

The first good reason is that December is the month for our annual Holidayfest, with champagne and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, all provided by our members. We take the opportunity to congratulate ourselves on a successful near-completed year. We don't know yet if we set a new record with tours, but we enjoyed the year anyway.)

The second good reason for a December meeting is that it was Election Night for Mobile Watch. We are proud to announce that our new president and presiding officer is Kathleen Strettar (of Bristol Lane), who has served us so well as secretary for several years. She will sit at the head table beside our new secretary, Michelle Bruner (also of Bristol Lane). Dick Holloway, who has been our president for some time, will become vice-president, and will preside for Kathleen if she is unable to attend a night's meeting. This group was elected by acclamation so we had a short but productive election.

We would be glad to see you at one of our monthly meetings (first Wednesday). We meet at 7:30 pm at the Bingham Woods clubhouse. You will learn why we tour, have coffee and a sweet, and be home by nine.

Call Dick Holloway at 248.644.2622 for more information.

Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

BREAKING NEWS

STATE MANDATES VILLAGE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER, EVEN YEARS.

CHECK OUT

THE

VILLAGE WEBSITE

FOR ALL THE NEWS

www.binghamfarms.org

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.



Something for Everyone at BASCC this Winter

Active adults 50+ can enjoy the benefits of music, brain games and exercise at the Birmingham Area Senior Center (BASCC). The facility is open to anyone living in Bingham Farms and the surrounding communities. Stop by the center Monday through Friday from 9 am – 4 pm at 2121 Midvale in Birmingham or visit our website at www.bascc.org for a full listing of offerings this winter.

Leave the Driving to Us This Winter

Door to door transportation service is available for seniors and disabled adults residing in the Birmingham Public School District to medical, dental, personal appointments, shopping or activities at BASCC. Transportation hours are 8:30 am – 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Call at least three days in advance to request a ride. For reservations call 248.203.5270.

BBSC Valentine's Day Concert of Romantic Classics

Thursday, February 14 at 10:30 am
Cost is only \$15

Winter Maintenance Cont. from Page 1

Plowing snow across a roadway leaves what are known as "snow rows". These deposits create a safety problem for motorists and pedestrians and also prevent 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 a private contractor, thus delaying 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.

A string ensemble from the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra will play sweet romantic classics. Coffee, cakes and chocolate will be served. Pre-register in BASCC Office by Monday, February 11

Brain Games Return to BASCC

Wednesdays at 1 pm.
Complimentary to members/ \$5 per session fee for non-members
 January 23: Get Your Head in the Game
 February 27: Stress Relief 101
 March 27: Brain Neurobics - Game On!!

Ramifications of the Affordable Care Act

Wednesday, January 30 at 1 pm
Complimentary members/ \$5 participation fee for non-members
 Join us for a presentation on the Affordable Care Act and how it impacts Medicare presented by Jennifer Therrien, Manager, AAA-1B.

Chair Yoga

Monday and Wednesday
 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Tai Chi

Beginning and continuing classes
 Tuesday and Friday mornings

Computer Instruction

One-on-one computer and MAC training in: sending and receiving mail, connecting on Facebook, e-bay, spreadsheets, installing computers at home and more. Call or stop by the BASCC office to pre-pay, \$20 for 5 lessons or \$5 for one lesson. Schedule a class today.

Medical Equipment Loans

BASCC loan closet contains wheelchairs, walkers, canes, commodes, bath benches and shower stools available for short-term use. They also accept donations of any of the above items if they are clean and gently used.

RUBBISH RULES

This is a reminder about when trash cans can go out for Thursday pick up.

Village ordinance states that garbage cans may be placed at the street no earlier than 7:00 p.m. Wednesday night and must be brought in within 24 hours after pick up.

If a resident is heading out of town, kindly do not put your cans out the weekend or days before pick up. This allows way too much time for critters to get at the garbage, plus it's not fair for neighbors to look at garbage cans at the street for 5 or 7 days.

If you are going out of town, ask a neighbor to help out.

The Village does not like to ticket its residents, but it can for this type of infraction.



**SIGN UP
 FOR
 EMERGENCY
 NOTIFICATIONS**

www.binghamfarms.org

**click on
 STAY INFORMED**

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

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 on your vehicle.
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.

Detours will be posted. Both the police and fire departments are in the loop and are making plans to make sure emergency services are maintained.

The Road Commission has received a federal grant to cover the cost of the bridge and sidewalk. The Village's portion of the sidewalk extension will be partially paid by the Village's Act 51 funds received from the state.

The Road Commission plans on holding another public meeting closer to the start of construction. Stay tuned.

BALDWIN LIBRARY LINES UP NEW PROGRAMS

Hearing Loss Awareness Series presented by Deaf & Hearing Impaired, Inc. on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. Hearing Loss Awareness (January 9), Causes of Hearing Loss and Strategies to Protect Your Hearing (January 16), Hearing Aids: Buyer Beware, Purchasing and Maintenance Agreements (January 23) and a Hearing Screening (January 30). All ages welcome, including children.

The Art of Roughhousing on Tuesday, January 15 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Anthony T. DeBenedet, M.D., author of *The Art of Roughhousing*, will discuss the importance of roughhousing, ways to bring back this old-fashioned horseplay, and offer new tricks to liven thing up and stay safe! To register, call 248-554-4670 or visit www.baldwinlib.org/calendar.

Valentine's Day Duct Tape Roses on Thursday, February 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Real roses are expensive and only last for a week. Come to the Library this Valentine's Day to make duct tape roses that will last forever! Grades 7-12. To register, call 248-554-4650 or visit www.baldwinlib.org/calendar.

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

Fire Training Cont. from Pg. 2

cleared of smoke, and the home was secured.

No injuries were sustained during the training session.

The Fire Dept. is grateful to the homeowner, the village staff and village council for the ability to conduct this type of training. It is invaluable to train in real-life situations.

LIBRARY LOOKS AT EXPANSION

Major changes may be coming to the Baldwin Library. After a year's work by the Joint Library Building Committee, a framework has been developed to improve the Library's physical layout.

The framework could include a possible major renovation or expansion "from the inside out". This framework was developed through public input, benchmarking against other area libraries and a needs analysis of the Library's functional areas.

The recommendations would increase the size of the library from 40,176 square feet to 49,015 square feet. The increase is in the customer areas, space needed for staff to work more efficiently and space to be a more enjoyable and functional environment.



One of the main features under consideration is to improve handicap accessibility by providing an at-grade entry.

The Library Board will solicit input from the public at its January 23, 2013 meeting. A draft bid document is expected to be discussed at the Library Board's meeting on February 18th and then to the City Commission at its February 25th meeting.

For more information access the entire document at

www.baldwinlib.org/library-building

**SIGN UP FOR
EMAIL BLASTS
www.binghamfarms.org
Click on STAY INFORMED
at bottom of Home Page**

Franklin Police Officers Association

Dear Village Residents,

The Franklin Police Officers Association is again reaching out to 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 Franklin Police Officers would like to express our deep appreciation and sincere thanks to all those who donated to the fund last year. In 2012, the FPOA Honor Fund helped support our Police Mounted Unit, host retirement parties, provide memorial awards, support the Department holiday party, and donate to fallen Officers in the area. The fund also assisted in promoting 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. 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 Offices Association and other charitable initiatives supported by the Association. Any questions regarding the fund please contact **Ofc. Michael Bastianelli** or **Sgt. James Hirschfeld** at (248) 626-9672.

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.

RECYCLING & OTHER INFO

The Village provides recycling bins to residents for a fee of \$12.00. If you need one, just call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

If you're looking for something larger, local hardware stores and places like Home Depot and Lowes now sell recycling bins with wheels. Prices range from \$55 on up.



Processing and sorting of recycling materials are mostly done at a recycling station rather than at the street. Don't get overly concerned if the sanitation worker just puts all your recyclables together in the truck.

That means, it's okay to combine your own recyclables into one container.

Bingham Farms residents are big on recycling as the average rate is around 85-90% on any given week.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS! CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

This may seem premature but consider this a heads up that come Spring clocks will move forward. 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

Classical Brunch - Jan. 13 11:30 a.m. @ The Community House.

Birmingham Restaurant Week - Jan. 30-Jan. 31

Franklin

Farmers Winter Market - every Sunday Franklin Racquet Club 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Beverly Hills

Winter Family Fun Day - Jan. 29th Beverly Park

FEBRUARY

Birmingham

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

Classical Brunch - Jan. 17 11:30 a.m. @ The Community House.

Franklin

Farmers Winter Market - every Sunday Franklin Racquet Club 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

MARCH

Birmingham

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

Classical Brunch - Mar. 17 11:30 a.m. @ The Community House.

Franklin

Farmers Winter Market - every Sunday Franklin Racquet Club 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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 2013. Deadline for submission of articles is March 15, 2013.

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