



# THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Winter, 2014

## WINTER MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

## WORTH THE WAIT?

### State & County Roads

This year, we'll just have to wait to see what Mother Nature blows our way. No matter what, the Road Commission will be ready.

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.

Drivers are asked to use caution at all times. If there are new drivers in your family, it's advisable to take them out when snow is on the roads so they get used to changing conditions.



### 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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November 27th at 3:30 p.m. will go down in history. This is when the long awaited opening of the 13 Mile Rd. bridge finally occurred.

It was a grueling, frustrating 5 months that was marked with delay after delay. Traffic problems were rampant.

Heavy rains caused delays and even washed out a wall leveling pad. Then other issues came up and it took time to design the resolution. Some of the materials delivered did not meet specification and had to be sent back and remade.



But look what we finally have; a widened road way, greatly improved visibility and a safety path that can accommodate walkers, bikers and runners. Some hearty souls have already braved the weather to walk on the new pathway across the bridge. Along the way, pedestrians can now stop and enjoy the beautiful and bucolic scenery.

The Village fortunately was able to use federal grant money to pay for a good portion of the sidewalks. The rest came from state and local funds.

Note that these sidewalks are considered "seasonal" sidewalks and will not be maintained during the winter months.

## LOOK WHAT'S NEW ON TELEGRAPH

It seems the Village has been talking about new restaurants coming for years. Well, yes, it has been years. But the time has come.

The first to open was Qdoba in early October. On November 6th DiBella's opened.

Two more will follow sometime in 2014. There's some question as to what the other two will be. The tenant names keep changing.

Further down on Telegraph will be Noodles and Jimmy Johns.

The Village studied its business district along Telegraph for quite some time. A Business Task Force was created several years ago to explore what business owners needed to make Bingham Farms more attractive. The one

issue that kept surfacing was the lack of eateries that their employees could easily access. They complained that employees needed more than an hour for lunch to drive to a restaurant, eat and then return.

Based upon this information, the Council, with help from its planner, Dave Birchler, established a special land use in the C-1 office district that would allow these outlot buildings.

It is hoped that these new amenities will strengthen the office district and attract new businesses.

Additionally, Village residents will now have a few local choices to grab a bite.

### VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2014

January 27  
February 24  
March 24

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

## IDENTITY THEFT ON THE RISE?

It seems everything is out there on the internet these days. You can deposit checks with a picture of the check and send it to your bank. You can actually deposit money into another person's account. Wow.

But with this, comes increased opportunity for someone to steal your identity. And this means everyone must take extra care to make sure this doesn't happen to them. Here are some basic ways to protect your information.

\*Read your credit reports. You can get a free credit every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting copies. To order, go to [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228.

\*Read your bank, credit card and account statements as well as explanation of medical benefits from your health plan. If a statement has mistakes, contact the business.

\*Shred all documents that show personal, financial and medical information before throwing them away.

\*Don't respond to email, text and phone messages that ask for personal information. Legitimate companies don't ask for information this way.

\*If you shop or bank online, use websites that protect your financial information with encryption. An encrypted site has "https:" at the beginning of the web address; "s" is for secure.

Use ant-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall on your computer.

### If your identity is stolen:

1. Flag your credit reports. Call each of the credit companies and ask for a fraud alert on your credit report.  
Equifax 1-800-525-6285  
Experian 1-888-397-3742  
Trans Union 1-800-680-7289
2. Order your credit reports. Read your reports carefully to see if the information is correct. If you see mistakes or signs of fraud, contact the credit reporting company.

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## BALDWIN LIBRARY CHOCK FULL OF WINTER PROGRAMS

Join the Baldwin Public Library as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation with a documentary film viewing and discussion series led by Dr. Danielle McGuire of Wayne State University. The series will begin in March and end in May. See

[www.baldwinlib.org/createdequal](http://www.baldwinlib.org/createdequal) for details.

The *Created Equal* film set is made possible through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of its Bridging Cultures initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Come see the Fleur de Lys String Ensemble Chamber Music Con-

cert with violin duo Andrew Wu and Melody Wootton on Sunday, January 5 at 2:00 p.m. The concert will feature a selection of music for two violins. The artists will examine music composed for this pairing over the span of roughly 200 years.

Pick up complimentary tickets for our Martin Luther King Day Celebration starring Miz Rosie on Monday, January 20 at 3:00 p.m. Storyteller Rosie Chapman brings history to life with her reenactment of Sojourner Truth, one of the most unique and courageous women in American History.

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

## WEST NILE VIRUS STILL GOING STRONG IN 2013

Looks like the impact of West Nile Virus was less severe this year. There were 33 human cases reported, down significantly from the 200 cases reported last year. The hardest hit was Wayne County with 14 cases with Oakland County reporting 4.

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.

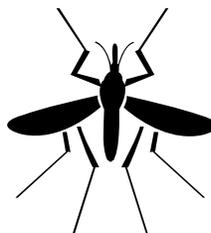
Other measures that can reduce the risk of contracting the virus include:

- ♦ Repair all holes in windows 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](http://www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus)  
or

[www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com)



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER JEFFREY D. MODELL, ESQ.

The Village was busy in 2013. The Thirteen Mile Rd. bridge, nearing the end of its useful life, was rebuilt under the direction of the Road Commission for Oakland County. Now you can actually see oncoming traffic when turning East from Bingham Road! The construction was inconvenient and frustratingly slow, but the new bridge has an estimated useful life of 50 years.

In addition:

\*Two outlot buildings were constructed on Telegraph south of Thirteen Mile Rd. Three restaurants are now open for business. The Village anticipates two additional restaurants in these spaces.

\*The Village Council appointed a new trustee, Jeff Douville, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Don Ketai.

\*Council appointed a new member to the Planning Commission, William Burrell, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ted Wells.

\*The Village has seen an uptick in permits for new home building. Hopefully, this is another sign the Michigan economy is making a comeback.

\*Several volunteers were acknowledged for achieving milestones in Village Government:

### Planning Commission

D.E. Hagaman (25 years of service)

Dr. Kathleen Yaremchuk (6 years of service)

Nat Towle (6 years of service)

### Design Review Board

Fritz Hatt (7 years of service)

### Village Council & Design Review Board

Jeffrey Modell (me!)(20 years

of service)

The Village appreciates the contributions of all our volunteers and elected officials. They keep the Village running smoothly today and pass on the experience necessary for the next generation to do the same.

\*The Village, in conjunction with the Bridge Project, authorized an extension of the bridge sidewalk to connect west to Telegraph Rd. and east to Bingham Farms Elementary School. The Village portion of this project is estimated to cost \$120,000.

\*A slope stabilization project was completed to fix a degrading patch of Bingham Rd. The cost for this project is estimated at \$141,000.

\*Brooks Ln. received a new road surface at an estimated cost of \$115,000.

The Village pays for these projects through Act 51 monies received from the State and from its collection of local taxes from property owners, both residential and commercial.

On the legislative side, the Council adopted a number of new ordinances to cope with evolving living:

\*Swimming pools, including decking must be at least 10 or 15 feet from the property line, depending on residential zones.

\*Tree & Woodland Protection – establishes property owner's responsibilities regarding dead/diseased trees.

\*Amended the ordinance governing businesses conducted out of a home to allow the approval process to be handled administratively rather than at the Council level.

Best wishes for the Holidays and a Happy New Year!

## ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR MOBILE WATCH

13 Mile is open! What a welcome announcement and what a great bridge. Try the sidewalk (I did); it's a very pleasant walk.

Our December meeting always includes our Holiday Fest, a celebration of the Holidays and the end of our Mobile Watch year. We drank champagne and enjoyed hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. You should come and join us next year. It's always a fun evening.

We always have an informative police report. The police reports include activity within our village and commercial district as well as surrounding areas. This month's was particularly encouraging. Home invasions are down from previous years and our patrols are up.

We are well on our way to topping last year's patrol number of 353; which equates to 28 patrols per month or nearly one per day. What a great job we are doing if I must say so myself!

We meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Bingham Woods Club House at 7:30 p.m. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors as well as the reporting police officer.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Kathy Strettar  
President  
BFMW

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EMAIL BLASTS**  
[www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org)  
**Click on STAY INFORMED  
at bottom of Home Page**

## A NEW FACE FOR THE BALDWIN LIBRARY?



It started with Baldwin’s 2010 strategic plan, which called for a study of the Library’s physical facility. That led to a community survey, which showed broad support for the Library, but also a desire for certain changes, such as technological improvements and better access for people with disabilities.

In March 2012, members of the Birmingham City Commission, the Library Board and the Birmingham Planning Board formed the Joint Library Building Committee (JLBC), which benchmarked Baldwin against peer libraries and carried out focus groups and community forums.

Then the City of Birmingham hired Quinn Evans Architects to work with the JLBC to develop a building plan based on that research.

The result is a proposal that would restore the original 1927 building to its original glory; eliminate the inefficient 1960 and 1981 additions; and replace those with a new, more functional structure, whose architecture would complement the original building.

The plan aims to satisfy the community’s needs and wants by significantly increasing the space for Youth Services, constructing an entrance at street level, making the building entirely ADA accessible, improving its adaptability to new technology, and adding study rooms and collaboration space.

The cost of the project would be \$21.5 million. Since the building belongs to the City of Birmingham, it is

Birmingham residents—not Bingham Farms residents—who will vote on and pay for the project. A vote could be held as early as May 6, 2014.

If the project is approved, construction will probably occur between 2015 and 2017.

During construction, Library services would continue, although in limited form, to all patrons, including those from Bingham Farms, who use Baldwin through contractual arrangements.

To learn more about the project, go to <http://www.baldwinlib.org/library-building>, or contact Doug Koschik at 248-554-4681 or [doug.koschik@baldwinlib.org](mailto:doug.koschik@baldwinlib.org).

### Winter Maintenance Cont. from Page 1

Plowing snow across a roadway leaves what are called “snow rows”. These deposits create a safety problem for motorists and pedestrians and make it more difficult for the Village contractor to properly clear 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 your snow on your property.

## 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. 2 Identity Theft

2. Create an Identity Theft Report
3. File a complaint with the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint) or call 1-877-438-4338. Your completed complaint is called an FTC Affidavit.
4. Take your FTC Affidavit to your local police or to the police where the theft occurred and file a police report. Get a copy of the police report.

The two documents comprise an Identity Theft Report.

More information can be obtained at [ftc.gov/idtheft](http://ftc.gov/idtheft).

## FREE FOOD??

How far would you go for free food? Camp out overnight in front of a restaurant? Bring your RV?

Well, there are some folks who spent all night waiting for the DiBella's Submarine Shoppe to open for business on November 6th. The first customers staked their claim before 5:00 p.m. on November 5th. They brought their canopy, grill and even a TV to pass the night away.



What were they waiting for? To get one of the 30 Certificates for free subs for an entire year.

And they weren't turned off by the rains that started a few hours before the shop opened its doors.

Now that's persistence!

## HHW & ELECTRONICS

The Village's contract with SOCRRA for disposal of household hazardous waste and electronics provides residents with the ability to correctly dispose of these items.

Per the contract, dropping off HHW materials and electronics carries a \$60 charge; \$30 for each category.

This applies to one item up to 10. So, if a resident drops off just one printer, the Village is charged \$30.

The ultimate goal is of course to discard these products safely. However, it is more cost effective if residents discard more than just 1 item per visit.

Also on the next page, there are directions for drying out latex paint.

## ROUGE RESCUE 2013

The Village has supported Friends of the Rouge for many years as they provide clean up projects to improve the Rouge River. Every year, they hold Rouge Rescue where volunteers help remove trash and invasive species that muck up the river.

This past year over 1700 hearty souls manned 39 worksites in 20 communities across the Rouge River watershed.

Over 120 acres were cleared of 82 cubic yards of trash, enough to fill 250 55-gallon drums. More than 8,000 cubic yards of invasive plants were removed to help prevent the loss of native vegetation.



The bulk of the trash removed consisted of paper, wrappers, Styro-foam, balls, bottles and cans. Wind and water help direct the rubbish to the River.



Other items removed were most likely intentionally dumped. There were 31 tires, 27 shopping carts, 4 mattresses, bicycles, a lazy boy chair, a hot tub and household appliances. And a construction company removed another vehicle from the river this year. Since 2006 more than 29 vehicles have been pulled from the Rouge.

It is amazing what these volunteers do to clean up the environment.

To find out more about Friends of the Rouge, log on to their website at [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org).

As a solid, it is not hazardous and can be disposed of in the regular trash collection.

Some of the major stores like Home Depot now carry an organic paint hardener that can be poured into latex paint and will quickly dry up the paint.



## GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSING OF LATEX PAINT

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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.

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

Bingham Farms residents are big on recycling as the average rate is about 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 9th, 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

Birmingham Restaurant Week - Jan. 27-Jan. 31

Village Players - "Come Back to the 5 & Dime" Jan. 17-19 & Jan. 24-26 248.644.2075

#### Beverly Hills

Winter Family Fun Day - Jan. 27th Beverly Park

### FEBRUARY

#### Birmingham

Restaurant Week - Birmingham Feb. 3-7

Birmingham Concert Band - "Music: The Language of Love" Feb. 9 - Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

### MARCH

#### Birmingham

"Inherit the Wind" at the Village Playhouse Mar. 14-16 & March 21-23 248.644.2075

### EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

<b>Police &amp; Fire</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>
<b>Police (dispatch)</b>	<b>248.626.5444</b>
<b>Police (office)</b>	<b>248.626.9672</b>
<b>Fire (office)</b>	<b>248.626.9862</b>
<b>DTE (electric)</b>	<b>1.800.477.4747</b>
<b>Consumers (gas)</b>	<b>1.800.477.5050</b>

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

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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](http://www.binghamfarms.org)