THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Winter, 2015

Winter Maintenance Reminders

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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Village Election Results

November elections saw strong voter turnout. Just under 68% of registered voters cast their ballots. That's a heavy turnout for the Village.

What's interesting is that only 37% of the voters cast ballots for the Village President and Trustees. One of the reasons could be that there were no contested positions.

Here's the breakdown from the November 4th elections.

President
Jeffrey Modell - 341 votes

Trustees (4-yr term)
Larry Freedman - 295 votes
Jeffrey Douville - 293 votes
Mel Ettenson - 291 votes

Trustees (2-yr terms)
Carl Grenadier - 293 votes
Bret Russell (write in) 5 votes

Congratulations to all our elected officials.

The Village has 2 other Boards that help run the Village, one is the Planning Commission and the other is the Design Review Board. If you might be interested in volunteering in the Village, fill out the Application available on the website www.binghamfarms.org.

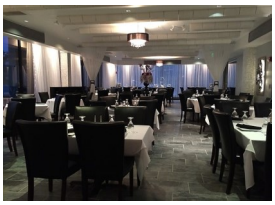
Any questions, give the Village a call at 248.644.0044.

New Restaurants on Telegraph

Bingham Farms is slowly adding to its selection of restaurants, from subs at **DiBellas** to Mexican at **Qdoba**. Looking for upscale coffee? Stop by **Biggby**. South of these you can find **Noodles** and **Jimmy Johns.**

A number of new restaurants have just opened or are under construction.

Mandaloun Bistro, serving northern Lebanese food, opened in mid November and is located in the 30100 Telegraph Rd. building. Look for the big red canopy.



Mezza, serving Mediterranean food will be located at 30750 Telegraph Rd and is expected to open in the next few months.

Finally, if you've seen the construction going on in the parking lot of the 30400 Telegraph Rd. building, that's going to become the **Rusty Bucket Restaurant.** It's a cross between a

Cont. on Pg. 3

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2015

January 26
February 23
March 23

Meetings begin at **7:30 p.m.**

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET NOW AVAILABLE AT POLICE DEPT.

Not sure how to dispose of unused prescription pills? Here's a pretty easy way to get rid of them and not by flushing them down the drain.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office is proud to sponsor Operation Medicine Cabinet™ (OMC). OMC was launched at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office in July of 2009. It provides citizens a venue to properly dispose of their expired and/or unused prescriptions anonymously at several different locations around Oakland County.

The newest location is right in our backyard. The Franklin Bingham Police Dept. has just become another official location for this program.

All you have to do is bring in your unused or expired medicines to the police department. No sharpies though.

A police officer will count the pills left in the prescription bottles, put the pills in a sealed bag and return the bottles back to you.

Then you just drop them off in the depository in the lobby.

That's it. No questions asked. No names placed on the pill bags that are deposited.

It's quick and it eliminates some of the ingredients in those prescription drugs from entering our water system.

The Police Department is located at 32325 Franklin Road, between 13 & 14 Mile Roads. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.. Monday through Friday. For more information call 248.626.9672

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 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.

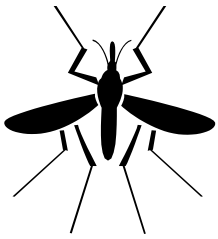
Come see the Fleur de Lys String Ensemble Chamber Music Concert with violin duo Andrew Wu and Melody Wootton on Sunday, January 5 at 2:00 p.m. The concert will feature a selection of music for two violins. The artists will examine music composed for this pairing over the span of roughly 200 years.

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 INFECTIONS WANE IN 2014

Looks like the impact of West Nile Virus was less severe this year. There were just one human case reported, down significantly from the 33 cases reported last year. That lone case was in Kent County. But don't raise the victory flag so quickly. The virus is still around. There were 25 dead bird infections confirmed in the State; fortunately none in Oakland County.



These results show that precautionary measures are working as people trying to avoid mosquito bites.

Most people infected with West Nile do not show any symptoms. However, symptoms may appear anywhere from 3 to 14 days after being bitten. 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.
- 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 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, ESQ.

The major undertaking of **2014** was the rebuilding of the Thirteen Mile Rd. bridge under the direction of the Road Commission for Oakland County. The vast bulk of the tab was paid through a federal grant. The Village paid for extension of the bridge sidewalk to connect west to Telegraph Rd. and east to Bingham Farms Elementary School in order to qualify for the bridge portion. The bridge looks great and offers an improved view of oncoming traffic from the Bingham Rd. turn. Hopefully it will be fifty years before the Village encounters this type of project again.

Also in 2014:

*New restaurants on Telegraph south of Thirteen Mile Rd., mostly lunch food but also one fine dining. The Village anticipates two more restaurants will open in the near future.

*A slope stabilization project was completed on Bingham Rd. This was undertaken to maintain the integrity of the road surface.

*Brooks Ln. received a new road surface.

The Village pays for such projects through Act 51 monies received from the State and from its collection of local taxes from property owners, both residential and commercial. The combination of the recession, Village Council's determination to keep the budget extremely lean and taxes low when the economy was hemorrhaging, State legislation restricting the Village's ability to capture the full appreciation of property values and the gradual elimination of the business personal property tax, have left the Village's financial cushion for road, infrastructure and major disasters around $350,000 below their level of 5 years ago.

The Village is in good financial shape but not as solid as it should be. I have requested the Village Council Budget Committee to evaluate whether we need (and recommend if appropriate) a minor increase in property taxes that would still leave annual assessments well beneath the Village's current authorized maximum millage rate.

Any decision to raise property taxes would require a majority vote of the Village Council. All of the Council members are Village taxpayers so you can be assured any decision to help restore the Village's financial strength will be well-thought out and prudent.

MOBILE WATCH NEWS

There have been some changes in the Bingham Farms Mobile Watch Directors.

Due to some health changes of our long time CEO Richard Holloway. we have a new Board of Directors:
President - Don Ketai,
Co-Vice Presidents - Christine & Walter Rygiel
Treasurer - Robert Warren,
Secretary - Michelle Hunt Bruner,

As always, The Franklin Bingham Farms Police participate and attend our meetings. Officer Dave Dwyer has recently retired after more than 22 years of assistance to us. We will sorely miss him.

However we are so fortunate that Officer Kimberley Bonacorsi will now attend our monthly meetings and give the Police activities report. We welcome her with open arms. We are also pleased to welcome our newest Bingham Farms Mobile Watch members. Christine and Walter Rygiel and Barbara Wertheimer.

We openly encourage all residents to become Mobile Watch participants. Come join us for Police news, a cup of coffee, and friendship, the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Bingham Woods club house.

IT JUST HAPPENED AGAIN

Last Fall, the Village coordinated a Village wide clean up. The goal was to pick up the debris that landed in the rights of way, cleaned up debris along the roadside and one dumping area .

Unfortunately, there are some folks or contractors who feel some of the natural areas in the village are dumping sites.

Just before Christmas, the village was notified that someone had dumped garbage in the cul-de-sac on Shagwood. One of our police officers noticed it while on routine patrol. It's not known when it occurred, whether it was in the late evening or early morn-

However, there were 4 bags of trash just left there for someone else to pick up.

The Village incurs extra expense to do special pick ups. This one was a minor issue, but most of the time these dumps are far more expensive.

If anyone sees anything suspicious, give a call to the police department, by dialing dispatch at 626-5444. Our police department is great and they do not mind checking things out.

New Restaurants
From Pg. 1

family-type restaurant and a sports bar. This is expected to open summer 2015.

The Village is making an effort to bolster the office district by providing eating establishments within walking distance. It also gives residents a few alternatives right in their backyard.

Library Notes

Stop by the Library on Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. to enjoy a Downton Abbey Tea. Barb Gully from the *Detroit Tea Examiner* will give us an entertaining and informative presentation on Downton Abbey while we enjoy tea prepared by Barb's TEA Shop and taste the scones from the Townsend Hotel. Registration at calendar.baldwinlib.org is required and participants are invited to bring their own tea cups and saucers.

If you are a fan of fine or performing arts, join the Library, the Michigan Opera Theatre, and the DIA in exploring the life of Frida Kahlo. On Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m. Karen VanderKloot DiChiera, Founder and Director of Community Programs at the MOT, will present on Robert Xavier Rodriguez's *Frida.*

Or stop by on Sunday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m. to view the Academy Award winning film *Frida!*

Finally join us on Tuesday, March 10 for an Art + Authors book discussion with the DIA. Informal discussion with coffee and dessert will start at 6:30 p.m., with a presentation from the DIA at 7:00 p.m.

All of the Library's programs can be found on our calendar at calendar.baldwinlib.org and more can be found on our website at www.baldwinlib.org.

MASTER PLAN UNDER REVIEW

Every five years the Planning Commission takes a look at the Village Master Plan. This document is a look into the future and how the Village should or should not adapt to new trends. It's a look at how to maintain the characteristics of the Village and what needs to be enhanced.

It's quite a process. The Village Planner, David Birchler of Clearzoning and his staff are helping in this endeavor by providing research and concepts.

The Village held a workshop in the fall so residents had an opportunity to comment on various aspects of the Master Plan and offer suggestions that could be included in the Plan.

While not totally finished, the Village Council has authorized distribution of the plan to surrounding communities as mandated by state law. Communities may comment on anything in the Master Plan which will be reviewed by the Planner and the Planning Commission.

The latest draft of the Master Plan is available at the Village office or on the website. It provides a lot of interesting information about the Village.

www.binghamfarms.org

START YOUR NEW YEAR AT BASCC

BASCC, Your Senior Center, is going through some exciting changes. To better serve our community, we are now open until 8:00 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We have added new staff and introduced impressive new programming.

We have also changed our name. While the final decision on our new moniker is still in flux, we would like to take a moment to answer the question that has come up most often during this process, "Why change your name?"

BASCC has been a community institution for 37 years, and to its members, the name BASCC has become synonymous with providing anyone 50 and over a place for fun, fitness and friendship. For those who have never experienced all the wonderful things BASCC has to offer, the name means little and says even less when expanded to its full form, Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center. It was decided that we needed a name that was immediately recognizable and better evoked who and what we are to anyone who heard it.

No matter what changes we go through however, our mission and our core principals will never alter. We are more committed than ever to being the premier center for anyone 50 and over who is looking for educational, recreational, and social programs, along with supportive outreach services all in an atmosphere that feels like home. We pride ourselves on knowing our members and providing individual attention other centers don't.

So, are we an even more exciting center of vitality, health,

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Winter Maintenance
<u>Cont. from Page 1</u>

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.

BASCC
From Pg. 4

education and fun? Absolutely. Are we still a place where we spend the time to get to know you as a person and not just a member-number? Of course. Are we going to strive to be better than we were last week, last month, or last year? Yes,

For now, you can still reach our website at bascc.org, or you can always give us a call at 248.203.5276, and of course, we would love to have you stop by 2121 Midvale in Birmingham and say hello. We are always happy to show someone around and talk about all the exciting possibilities that could be yours by becoming a member.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE POWER OUTAGES

It's a fair question. Why all the power outages this year? The MPSC (Michigan Public Service Commission) it's all those big, tall trees falling into the wires.

Perhaps that's part of it. But DTE has been hacking away at the trees consistently and that doesn't seem to eliminate power outages. Are the wires old? Are the utility poles in good shape?

True, there have been some powerful storms and not so powerful, yet there seems to be certain areas hit hard.

Take for instance the office district situated on Telegraph Rd. between 13 and 14 Mile Roads. They've lost power 8 times since April. Many of the building owners are looking at installing whole-building generators costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Recently, DTE hacked a wide swath in Bloomfield Hills taking down trees not only in the right of way, but on private property. The MPSC wants them to clear limbs and trees far from the wires. The residents were really angry.

Man communities are known for their trees and the natural serenity. It's a delicate balance between providing consistent electrical service and the environment.

Residents just want to reach an amicable solution but taking down huge trees on private property doesn't seem to be the right approach.

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 8th**, 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.

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

What 22 years and thousands of volunteers can accomplish. The Rouge River National Wet Weather Project

Back in 1992, the Rouge River was considered one of the most polluted rivers in the country. People didn't go near it, the fish left long before that and industrial waste flowed freely down the river.

It was at this point that Wayne County decided this was an emergency situation. Something had to be done. Thus was the beginning of the Rouge River National Wet Weather Project.

Its mission was to demonstrate effective solutions to water quality problems facing an urban watershed highly impacted by wet weather and develop potential solutions and implement projects that would lead to the restoration of water quality.

The goal was to

- Provide a safe and healthy recreational river resource for present and future generations;
- Re-establish a healthy and diverse ecosystem within the Rouge River Watershed;
- Protect downstream water resources such as the Detroit River and Lake Erie; and
- Help ensure compliance with federal, state and local environmental laws which protect human health and the environment.

Two decades later, here's what occurred.

- over $550,000,000 invested in 383 Rouge River restoration activities implemented
- helped by 75 different communities and organizations,
- thousands of hours volunteered,
- millions of educational pieces distributed, and much more.

The early focus was on the control of combined sewer overflows to the river but quickly expanded to address other pollution sources such as sanitary sewer overflows (which includes Bingham Farms) and failed onsite septic systems (including Franklin).

Wayne County was awarded hundreds of grants to accomplish this historic clean up and then allocated 383 subgrants totaling $255,580,000 to implement projects benefiting the Rouge River.. Combined with funding from state and local municipalities, the following projects wee completed.

- 88 CSO/SSO control projects- $379,263.600
- 47 storm water control projects - $12,178,200
- 48 riparian corridor management project (including streambank stabilization, lake restoration, and dam removal) - $25,904,500
- 71 public education and involvement projects - $11,621,400
- 23 projects to enhance recreation along the river - $7,483,100
- 106 watershed management/ analysis projects (including geographic information system development, illicit discharge elimination projects and water quality monitoring) -$10,238,200

This was a monumental project and could not have been accomplished without the leadership of Kelly Cave, Wayne County's Director of Water Quality and Razik Alsaigh, Wayne County's Grant Manager who somehow kept this giant Wet Weather Project going.

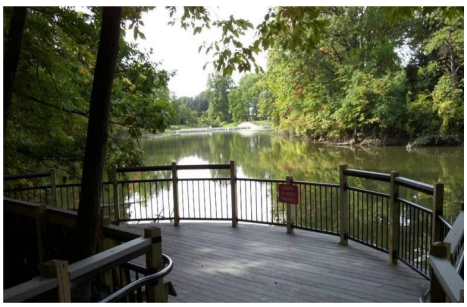
While the federal grants supporting the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project ended in June after 22 years, other organizations such as the Alliance of Rouge Communities (Bingham Farms is a member) hopefully can continue this work. To read the final report log on to the Village website at

www.binghamfarms.org

and click on Rouge River.

Birmingham CSO Treatment Basin

Grow Zone (Bingham Farms has one of these)



Carpenter Lake Restoration-Southfield

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 that 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.

From SOCRRA website
www.socrra.org

Your Legislators on January 5, 2015

United States Senators
Gary Peters D
Debbie Stabenow- D
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Peters (no # available)
Stabenow: (202) 224-4822

U.S. House of Representatives
Sander Levin
1236 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(888) 810-3880
(202) 226-1033

Michigan Senator
Jim Marleau
12th District
Capital Building P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(248) 724-2442 or email,
jimmarleau@senate.michigan.gov

County Commissioner
Bill Dwyer, 14th District
1200 N. Telegraph
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 858-0100
(248) 855-2505
wdwyer@mi.rr.com

HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

JANUARY

Birmingham
Birmingham Restaurant Week - Jan. 26-30

Village Players - "Brighton Beach Memoirs" Jan. 16-18, Jan. 23-25 & Jan. 30-31 248.644.2075

Beverly Hills
Winter Family Fun Day - Jan. 26th Beverly Park

FEBRUARY

Birmingham
Restaurant Week - Birmingham Feb. 2-6

Birmingham Concert Band - "As Time Goes By" Feb. 22 - Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

MARCH

Birmingham
"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? " at the Village Playhouse Mar. 6-8. 13-15 and & March 20-22 248.644.2075

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**

The Bingham Farms Post is
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Editor: Kathryn Hagaman
clerk@binghamfarms.org

The next edition of the Post is scheduled for April 2015. Deadline for submission of articles is March 13, 2015.

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