



# THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Fall 2018

## Meet Ken Marten, the Village's New Administrator/Clerk

After 27 years of loyal and exemplary public service as the village clerk and administrator, Kathy Hagaman has retired. Her replacement is Ken Marten, who started in late August.

Ken joined Bingham Farms after serving as the economic development director and assistant to the city administrator in Lathrup Village. Prior to that, he worked as a project manager for a public school district and as an award-winning journalist specializing in public affairs and local government.

"It's a privilege to work for such a vibrant and unique community," Ken said about Bingham Farms. "I hope I can measure up to Kathy's degree of expertise and professionalism. She definitely set the bar high."

Ken earned his bachelor of science degree from Grand Valley State, and his Master of Public Administration from Central Michigan University.

He and wife Jennifer live in Indian Village, one of Detroit's unique historic districts. Their interests include volunteering for a greyhound rescue group, history and traveling. They recently returned from a quick trip to Spain.

Contact Ken regarding village concerns or simply to chat. Call 248-644-0044 or email [kmarten@binghamfarms.org](mailto:kmarten@binghamfarms.org).



## Snow Removal

One of the major concerns the village handles each year is snow removal, especially when residents or their contractors plow snow from their driveway across the street onto a neighbor's property. What remains are called "snow rows."

These snow rows can freeze and cause problems with the Village's snow removal contractor, pedestrians, motorists and public safety vehicles.

Creating snow rows is unlawful. Years ago, the Village Council passed an ordinance that prohibits snow to be deposited on another property, public or private. Violators can be ticketed.

It's important that residents inform their snow removal contractors that the snow that falls on your property must stay on your property.

The Village will continue its contract this winter season with Johnson Landscaping to provide snow removal services and salt applications.

Snow plows hit the road as soon as 2 inches have fallen. In heavy storms, the contractor will plow several times to keep the roads passable.

The Village will request additional work when conditions warrant. The decision to salt the roads is based on the assessment of the police department. Similar to last year, the village will salt the public roads, when necessary. But remember that we live in Michigan. Conditions can change in a matter of hours. Drive with care.

Violations can result in tickets being issued. The village takes no pleasure in writing tickets to residents. The primary goal is to keep the streets safe for everyone.

## Wanted: Village Council Trustee

All candidates running for the five Bingham Farms Village Council seats on the Nov. 6 ballot are unopposed. However, residents will still see changes on council.

Village President Jeffrey Modell is not seeking re-election (see his article on Page 3), and Trustee Ben Templeton is running for the presidency unopposed. Because Templeton's trustee term ends in 2020, that seat will be vacant.

Residents interested in filling the seat should request an "Application for Boards and Commissions" from Village Administrator Ken Marten (see the above article for contact info).

Trustees Jeffrey Douville, Mel Ettenson and Lawrence Freedman are running for re-election to four-year terms that will expire in 2022. Ettenson is also the president pro tem.

Trustee Kurt Jones, who was appointed in 2017 to fill an unexpired term, is running for "retention" (the technical term) to that seat, which expires in 2020.

Trustee Carl Grenadier is the only member of the Village Council whose name will not appear on the November ballot. His term expires in 2020.

There are a total of seven seats on the Village Council. It typically meets on the fourth Monday of the month. Council members receive no compensation.

Also on the November ballot are Propositions A through G, which if passed would amend sections the Village Charter. See Page 2 for proposition language.

## VILLAGE OF BINGHAM FARMS BALLOT QUESTIONS ON THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018 BALLOT

### PROPOSITION A

**CHAPTER II, SECTION 2(1):**  
Shall Section 2(1) of Chapter II of the Charter be amended to provide that the Village may acquire and/or dispose of personal property of a value not exceeding \$20,000.00 for any public use without approval of the electorate.

Yes     No

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**  
This Charter amendment would increase the value of personal property the Village may acquire and/or dispose of for any public purpose without the prior approval of the electorate from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

### PROPOSITION B

**CHAPTER III, SECTION 8(2):**  
Shall Section 8(2) of Chapter III of the Charter be amended to provide that the Village Council may establish and/or contract for a Police Department including a Police Chief to insure that all ordinances and regulations of the Village are promptly enforced and to eliminate all references to a Village Marshall.

Yes     No

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**  
This Charter amendment eliminates the requirement that the Village appoint a Village Marshall and provides that the Village may establish and/or contract for a Police Department to reflect the fact that the Village currently contracts with the Franklin Police Department for police services.

### PROPOSITION C

**CHAPTER III, SECTION 8(3):**  
Shall Section 8(3) of Chapter III of the Charter be amended to eliminate any reference to the Village Marshall.

Yes     No

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This Charter amendment eliminates the reference to the Village Marshall, inasmuch as the Village currently does not have a Village Marshall, but instead contracts with the Franklin Police Department to provide police services to the Village.

### PROPOSITION D

**CHAPTER IV, SECTION 21:**  
Shall Section 21 of Chapter IV of the Charter be amended to provide that if there is a conflict between the general laws of the State of Michigan and the Village Charter with respect to elections, the general laws of the State of Michigan shall control.

Yes     No

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**  
This Charter amendment provides that in the event there is a conflict between the general laws of the State of Michigan and the Village Charter with respect to elections, the general laws of the State of Michigan will control.

### PROPOSITION E

**CHAPTER VI, SECTION 5:**  
Shall Section 5 of Chapter VI of the Charter be amended to provide that the maximum fine for violation of any Village Ordinance shall be increased from \$100.00 to \$500.00 and imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a maximum period of imprisonment of 93 days if authorized by State law and to also provide that the Village Council shall have the authority to designate the violation of certain ordinances as civil infractions.

Yes     No

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This Charter amendment authorizes the maximum punishments for violations of Village Ordinances that are consistent with current State law and/or the Village Charter.

### PROPOSITION F

**CHAPTER IX, SECTION 7:**  
Shall Section 7 of Chapter IX of the Charter be amended to provide that the Village shall provide financial reporting in the manner required by State law.

Yes     No

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**  
This Charter amendment provides that the Village shall provide financial reporting pertaining to Village financial affairs in the manner required by the laws of the State of Michigan.

### PROPOSITION G

**CHAPTER XVI, SECTION 11:**  
Shall Section 11 of Chapter XVI of the Charter be amended to provide that persons convicted of a violation of the Charter or Village Ordinances shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00 and/or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or imprisonment not exceeding 93 days if authorized by State law, or a fine not more than \$500.00 for a violation of civil infraction ordinances.

Yes     No

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**  
This Charter amendment provides that the punishment for persons convicted of a violation of the Charter or Village Ordinances shall be as authorized by the laws of the State of Michigan.

**POLLING PLACE:** Bingham Farms Elementary School, 23400 Thirteen Mile Road, Bingham Farms, Michigan, 48025.

## Letter from the President

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My current term as President of the Village of Bingham Farms ends in November. I am not standing for re-election.

Six years ago, Trustee and Mobile Watch member Dorothy Warren suggested I give up my position as Chairman of the Design Review Board to run for Village Council as a Trustee. She hoped I would be a stabilizing influence who would promote civility, common sense, and brevity. Two out of three isn't bad! A prior Village Council then appointed me to fill out the term of a departing President. I got the distinct impression the main factor was my demonstrated ability on the DRB to keep meetings short and efficient. Retired Village Clerk Kathryn Hagaman's stop watch and President Pro Tem Mel Ettenson's sharp elbow soon confirmed this and made clear, if I did not already know, that the President was at the bottom of the ladder rather than the top.

Thank you, anyway, for allowing me to serve as President. It has been an honor and a privilege.

My appreciation goes out to the voters, other residents and businesses, Village Council, our volunteer board and commission members, the professional staff of the Village (Kathy, new Clerk/Village Administrator Ken Marten, Treasurer Karin Ludwick and Administrative Assistant Anna Alberti), Chief Dan Roberts and the Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department, Chief Tony Averbuck and the Franklin-Bingham Farms Fire Department. To that list I add Mobile Watch even though they are totally independent of Village government, Car Trucking (garbage pickup), Johnson Landscaping (snow plowing and unsafe tree removal), the City of Southfield (contracted building inspection services), Derk Beckerleg and Jennifer Hill of Secrest Wardle (the Village's civil legal counsel), and Village Planner Jill Bahm.

This is the part where an outgoing President lauds their accomplishments. After decades of unpaid public service I have learned that nothing good in municipal service can be credited to just one individual.

Few individuals attend Council and Board meetings. I know from talking to residents and our 2017 survey that the sparse attendance is indicative of satisfaction rather than apathy. I strongly urge you to attend meetings anyway. Put your views at the forefront!

Thanks once more, and best wishes.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey D. Modell Esq.

### Village Council Meetings

**October 22**  
**November 26**  
**December 17**

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

**BE IN THE KNOW!**  
**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT EMAIL BLASTS**  
**FROM THE VILLAGE**

**Log on to the Village website [www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org)**  
**CLICK ON STAY INFORMED at the bottom of the**  
**Home Page and enter in your email address.**



## Reminders

For new residents, there are a substantial learning curve as to the do's and don'ts per village ordinances.

**Home Renovations:** Any change to the outside of the house usually requires approval from the Design Review Board.

**Permits:** They're required for electrical, plumbing, heating/cooling, as well as roofing. The City of Southfield Building Department handles Bingham's permitting process. Call 248-796-4122.

**Driveways :** New drives, repairs, sealcoating, etc. — any work requires a permit from the Village. If you are putting in a new drive or extending an existing one, remember that driveway widths (in most cases) can't exceed 12 feet.

It is always best to check in with the Village office to avoid delays in projects. A simple call can save you time and money.

### SIGNS

**Contractor signs ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

**Political/Non Profit Signs** are allowed on residential properties. They must be removed within 5 days after an event or election.

### RUBBISH PICK UP

Rubbish pick up is on Thursdays. Have trash cans at the road by 7:00 a.m. They can't stay at the street for more than 24 hours.

### RECYCLING

The Village contracts with **SOCRRA** to handle the Village's recycling materials and household hazardous waste. The facility at 995 Coolidge Rd. in Royal Oak, south of Maple Rd. across from Meijer's.

**Simple Recycling** is a for-profit company which takes items bound for the landfill and finds alternate sources to dispose of the items.

For more information call the Village office at 248-644-0044.

### EMAIL BLAST

The Village uses an email blast system to inform residents of important news. To sign up, go to the Village website at **binghamfarms.org** and click on the Stay Informed icon at the bottom of the homepage.

### TREE & WOODLAND PROTECTION

The village has a Tree and Woodland Protection Ordinance. Consult the ordinance (it's online) before removing trees. Questions? Call the village at 248-644-0044.

### MOBILE WATCH

Members of Mobile Watch routinely tour the village roads looking for anything "unusual." All residents are invited to join. Mobile Watch meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Bingham Woods Condos clubhouse.

## Telegraph Construction and Traffic

The Franklin Bingham Police Department has received numerous complaints from residents about enforcing the "local traffic only" signs on Bingham Road. In fact, those signs are not enforceable. Because Bingham Road is a public - not private - road maintained with taxpayer dollars, it can not be restricted to just Bingham residents. The "local traffic only" signs merely serve as a visual deterrent and can't be enforced.

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) is responsible for the construction

on Telegraph at Maple. The best estimate for completion is mid-November. Frankly, traffic on Bingham Road will be thicker than usual until then.

The department also reports that the number of traffic accidents on Telegraph has increased, especially during evening rush hour. Also, Telegraph traffic has diverted over to Franklin and Inkster roads, further complicating the department's efforts.

### NEED TO DISPOSE OF UNUSED PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE?

**TAKE IT TO THE FRANKLIN BINGHAM POLICE DEPT. 32325 FRANKLIN ROAD**

(across from the Franklin Post Office)

### FIRE & POLICE NUMBERS

<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>
<b>DISPATCH</b>	<b>248-626-5444</b>
<b>POLICE DEPT.</b>	<b>248-626-9672</b>
<b>FIRE DEPT.</b>	<b>248-626-9862</b>

### ***Do You have a Knox Box for Your Home?***

A while back, I stopped by the home of a new resident to introduce myself and the Fire Department. Talking about our services, I mentioned they had a Knox box mounted to their home. The homeowner had no idea what it was.

The Knox box is an important tool for emergency response needs of the police and fire departments. It allows for the secured safekeeping of a key just in case we need to gain entry during an emergency.

A Knox box is not required but is recommended. If we're called to your home and you are not able to let us in, our options are limited to breaking down the door, or using the key stored in the Knox box.

With this in mind, if you've moved into the Village and have a Knox box mounted to your house, call and have us come out to verify the key contained is still

current for your house. If you have changed the locks, please have a copy of your key available so we can switch out the stored key.

If you don't have a Knox box on your home, please consider purchasing one. Go to [www.knoxhomebox.com](http://www.knoxhomebox.com) for online ordering of the single-key version. If your home requires the use of security gates, fences, multiple keys and/or keycards, please contact us for a standard order form (different size boxes and options).

Once your purchased Knox box is in hand, call us so that we may come to your home to discuss placement options that are suitable for the Fire Department and you.

**Tony Averbuch,**  
**Fire Chief**  
**248-626-9862**

### ***Be Prepared***

It seems Bingham Farms and some of our surrounding areas are target areas for power outages. Parts of Bingham Farms have lost power four times since April.

It is imperative for everyone to call DTE and report an outage. The more calls DTE receives, the better idea they have of the extent of the outage. Don't assume your neighbor has called it in. Everyone should. The number is 800-477-4747. Or visit [dteenergy.com](http://dteenergy.com) and click on Report Power Outage.

### ***Time Change: Fall Back***

This time of year is when we gain extra hour of sleep. Turn your clocks back one hour on Nov. 5. Or as many do, turn them back before you go to bed on Saturday night.

While changing your clocks, remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

### ***Municipal Holiday Closures***

#### **BINGHAM FARMS**

**Thanksgiving & Black Friday**  
**Nov. 22 & 23**

**Christmas & the New Year**  
**Dec. 24 thru Jan. 2**

**The office reopens Wednesday**  
**Jan. 2, 2019**

#### **SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP**

**Thanksgiving & Black Friday**  
**Nov. 22 & 23**

**Christmas Eve & Day**  
**Dec. 24 & 25**

**New Years Eve & Day**  
**Dec. 31 & Jan. 1**

#### **Village Council Meetings**

**October 22**  
**November 26**  
**December 17**

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

## Living with Wildlife in Bingham Farms

First came the deer. It was cute when there were just a few of them. Then came the coyotes. Not so cute. Now a few wild turkeys have been sighted.

People are complaining about all of them. The deer have favorite foods, such as hostas, flowers and certain vegetables. Do not feed the deer. There's not much that can be done to stop them from eating everything in sight. Hunting is not allowed in the Village; that includes hiring professional sharpshooters.

Log on to the Village website for a comprehensive list of plants and trees that deer are less prone to eat.

Coyotes have become a concern as their population has increased. They rarely attack humans, but small animals are

another matter.

- Never approach or touch a coyote.
- Never intentionally feed a coyote.
- Eliminate all outside food sources, especially pet foods.
- Put garbage out only on the morning of pickup day.
- Do not allow pets to roam free when coyotes are present.



## Kindly Pick Up After Your Dog

Not even dog lovers like to see dog poop left on a neighbor's lawn because its owner couldn't be bothered to pick it up.

This is a true story about a resident's mishap. He was mowing the lawn at his ditch and didn't notice the poop. He slipped on it and fell down the ditch. Fortunately he wasn't hurt.



But it could've been worse.

Please carry a baggie with you every time you walk your dog and pick up after it. Don't leave the baggie where your dog did his duty. It's not your neighbor's job to dispose of the droppings.

This simple effort will make a lot of people happy and avoid human accidents.

Thanks for cooperating.

## BURNING LEAVES ALLOWED

### Regulations (Chapter 50.02)

1. Don't burn leaves, grass or rubbish on any paved or bituminous surfaced street.
2. Don't burn any type of refuse where smoke, ashes or odor will create a nuisance, public or private.
3. Don't burn rubbish closer than 15 feet to a building.
4. Don't leave a fire unattended.

Any questions? Call the village office at 248-644-0044.

## BE IN THE KNOW SIGN UP FOR EMAIL BLASTS

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

Click on **STAY INFORMED** at the bottom of the Home Page

## JOIN THE VILLAGE MOBILE WATCH

**New members always welcome.**

Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse located at 30760 River Crossing.

Hear a valuable police report of the month's activities. Meet the reporting police officer and ask any question you may have.