



THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Spring, 2009

ANNUAL VILLAGE ELECTION SET FOR SEPTEMBER 15

The Village Bi-Annual election will be held on September 15, 2009. Registered voters will cast a ballot for President (4-year term), three trustee seats (4-year term) and one trustee seat (2-year term).

To run for a seat on Council is not difficult. To be placed on the ballot, a candidate must be a registered voter in the Village and submit a Nominating Petition. The Petition must have fifteen signatures (no more than twenty) of residents registered to vote in the Village.



An Affidavit of Identity is submitted at the same time as the Petition. Forms may be obtained at the Village office.

Historically, Village elections have been low-key with candidates spending a minimal amount of money. There have been times when candidates have distributed flyers to let voters know who they are, why they are running and what they hope to accomplish.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT BIDS FAREWELL

After serving for 10 1/2 years as President of the Village, Mary Jane Bauer recently submitted her resignation citing health issues. The Village council accepted the resignation at their February meeting.

Mrs. Bauer cited concern that she could not ensure her ability to regularly attend Council meetings and fully contribute the time necessary to handle Village affairs.

Assuming the Presidency in July, 1998 upon the untimely death of then President John Ogurek, Mrs. Bauer tackled many issues in the Village and worked diligently to maintain services while controlling expenditures.

She was consistent in her desire

Political signs are allowed in both the residential and commercial districts. There are restrictions so check the Village code for the regulations.

Absentee Ballots will be available. Voters aged 60 or above may request to be placed on a Permanent Absentee Ballot List. If you wish to be placed on this list, fill out the form on Pg. 4 and mail to Southfield Township.

Other voters who may be out of town on the day of the election also may ask for an Absentee Ballot by calling the Village office at 248.644.0044.

Bingham Farms residents vote at Bingham Farms Elementary School. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Municipal clerks are often looking for good people to staff the voting place. A little training is involved. Should you like more information, please call the Village office.

to keep the open feel of the Village and its natural terrain.

One of her favorite activities as President was to represent the Village at governmental functions and community events.

Mrs. Bauer is the longest serving President in Village history.

The Village Council and staff wish Mary Jane improved health and thank her for her years of service and contributions.



NEW PRESIDENT APPOINTED

David Leckie is the new President of the Village to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Mary Jane Bauer, who resigned last month. Mr. Leckie was unanimously appointed by the Village Council at the March 23rd meeting.

Mr. Leckie is a long time resident, moving into the Village when he was a boy. He and his wife, Yvonne, reside in the same home where Dave grew up.



Mr. Leckie has been active in Village affairs since the early 90's, starting out as the Village representative on the Birmingham Area Cable Board. For the past several years while serving on Council, he has been the Village liaison to both the Police and Fire Departments and served as President Pro Tem. He also has been a member of the Budget Committee.

Originally appointed to Council in 1995, Mr. Leckie brings to the office a business background and has worked to keep Village taxes low. His efforts have helped balance community growth while protecting the natural features of the Village.

Mrs. Delores Tripp was appointed to the position of President Pro Tem.

Mrs. Dorothy Warren was appointed to fill the vacant seat on Council.

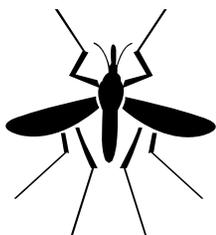
IMPORTANT ELECTION DEADLINES

Nominating Petitions & Affidavits of Identity Filed	June 23
Last day to register to vote	Aug. 17
Election Day	Sept. 15

THE FIGHT CONTINUES AGAINST THE WEST NILE VIRUS

According to the calendar, spring is here and couldn't come soon enough after the cold, snowy winter.

With that comes the familiar reminder about the West Nile Virus. It is still very much a menace. It is still necessary to take the proper precautions to avoid contracting the bug. The virus is spread to humans when bitten by a mosquito that carries the virus.



The number of human cases has been low over the last several years and that's because people are taking precautions. The best defense is a good offense. There were no human cases reported in Oakland County last year.

The Oakland County Health Department believes that the low numbers of human infection are directly related to the prevention methods residents are taking. The best advice — keep doing what you are doing.

- ♦ Reduce areas where mosquitoes breed,
- ♦ Repel to protect against mosquitoes, and
- ♦ 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 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 on children less than two years of age.)

To report dead birds, call the Oakland County Health Division Hotline at 1.877.377.3641. Properly dispose of the bird and wear gloves to protect yourself from direct contact with the bird.

For updates on West Nile Virus, log on to:
www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus
or
www.oakgov.com.

TIPS FOR A SAFE GRADUATION SEASON

Graduation season is fast approaching. High school seniors are thrilled reaching this milestone and are ready to party. Senior Prom is just around the corner.

A word of caution to parents. If you intend to throw a party, remember the legal drinking age is 21, NOT 18. And there are some municipalities that have tightened up their zero tolerance when it comes to underage drinking. Not only can kids get into legal trouble, so can parents.

Surveys of Birmingham area students show a greater tendency to drink, smoke and use drugs than the nationwide average.

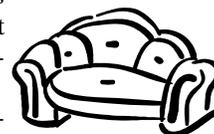
While it's a great idea to throw parties, make it safe for everyone.



LARGE ITEM PICK UP SCHEDULED

It's coming. The Village's semi-annual, free, large item pick up is set for **Thursday, June 4th**. All items should be at the street by 7:00 a.m. Large bulky items may be placed at the street the weekend before the pick up.

For new residents, the Village contracts with its rubbish contractor to haul away large items that normally are not included in the regular Thursday pick up.



This includes items such as sofas, washing machines and hot water heaters.

It does not mean that it's time to clean out all the rubbish stored in your home. In the past, residents who were moving out of their home figured they could put everything out at the street. Actually, one resident had boxes and rubbish lined all along the street and half way down the driveway.

Car Trucking has the authority to bypass homes that have an excessive amount of rubbish. If you are in need of a roll-off, call Car Trucking.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Village office or Car Trucking at 586.791.8480.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETINGS

2009

April 27

May 26

June 22

Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

POLICE BLOTTER

During the month of February there were three residential break-ins and one attempt in the Village of Franklin. All of the incidents occurred during the night.

On February 26th shortly after midnight, two suspects were arrested for the break-ins. While being interviewed by Lt. Castro they informed him that they using certain criteria to target homes.

- There was no exterior lighting
- The house appear to be unoccupied. There were, no cars in the driveway or in the garage.
- There was no alarm system or any indication that there was an alarm system.



If the above criteria were met, additional probing occurred before entry was attempted.

- They would walk around the house looking in the windows etc. If they didn't observe anything to indicate that someone was at home, they would knock on the front door. If no one answered, they would then select a point of entry - preferably an unlocked door or window.
- Once inside they would unlock the front door or other doors in order to be able to escape quickly, if needed.

We were able to apprehend these suspects as a result of an alert home owner and sharp police work by Sgt. Hirschfeld, Officer Bastianelli and Lt. Castro. By all of us working together we can hopefully eliminate this type of crime from occurring in the Villages of Franklin and Bingham Farms.

Police Chief Pat Browne

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE INFO

It's convenient, easy and available all year long. Bingham Farms residents can drop off their Household Hazardous Waste products at the SOCRRA facility on Coolidge Highway in Royal Oak. The contract between the Village and SOCRRA also allows residents to drop off electronic equipment, such as televisions (no consoles) and computer equipment.

Appointments are necessary. Call SOCRRA at 248.288.5153. The staff will ask a few questions about what type of material you want to drop off and what amounts. You will be given a date and time for your drop off.



Put the items in your car, drive to the site at the scheduled time, drive up to the little building in the back and show proof of residency (driver's license will do). The SOCRRA staff will do the rest. They will remove all the items from your vehicle.

Fill out a form and then be on your way. The whole experience should take less than an hour and that's door to door.

Should you have any questions, call SOCRRA at 248.288.5153 or visit their website at www.socrra.org. Remember the contract covers just household hazardous waste and electronics.

SEATING IS LIMITED SO CALL NOW

You may never have attended a meeting of Bingham Farms Mobile Watch, but you MAY want to attend our MAY 6th meeting.

As you perhaps know, Mobile Watch tries to annually schedule three different activities to intersperse with a year of Village touring – including a Holidayfest in December and a pot luck picnic for police and fire in August. This year the spring function will be on May 6, and the featured presentation will be from **Crime Stoppers of Michigan**.

This national organization solicits information from the public on current ongoing criminal investigations, and pays up to \$1000 when an arrest results. We hear of them on TV, but many of us know little of the operation and the successes they have had. So May 6 gives us that opportunity, and you are invited to join us for the evening.

While this is a regular business meeting night for Mobile Watch, starting at 7:30 in the Bingham Woods Clubhouse, we will skip some of our monthly reports, hear our regular detailed police report, enjoy the Crime Stoppers presentation and have coffee and a sweet to complete the evening. Unless you have a great number of questions following the presentation, you will still be home by 9.

But seating is limited, so we need to know if you are coming. Please call Joyce Fox at 248.644.3876 and let us know if you would like to attend.

We expect an interesting evening and hope you can join us.

Bingham Farms Mobile Watch

**FREE SHREDDING
HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENTS
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009
10:00 A.M. - NOON
SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP PARKING LOT
18550 W. 13 MILE RD.**



Will accept five or six storage boxes

Questions: Call 248.540.3420

PROCEDURE TO BE PLACED ON PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST

New state law has changed the way voters may receive absentee ballot applications. Gone is the phone call to ask to be placed on a permanent list. Now voters (over the age of 60) must request **in writing** that they be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voter Application List. This list allows the Clerk to automatically send out Absentee Ballot Applications for each election.

Either write a letter or fill in the application below and return it to Clerk, Southfield Twp. 18550 Thirteen Mile Rd., Southfield Twp., MI 48025. The office is located just west of Southfield Road.

REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON PERMANENT ABSENTEE VOTER APPLICATION LIST

I, the undersigned, request to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list so I will receive an **application** for an absentee ballot for any upcoming elections. (Mail or return to Southfield Twp. Clerk, 18550 W. 13 Mile Rd., Southfield Twp., MI 48025.)

DATE: _____

NAME: _____
Print Name

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

NOW YOU CAN RECYCLE MORE

Good news for wine aficionados. Wine bottles are now recyclable. That's right, the recycling market has opened up and now green and brown glass can be placed in the recycling bins.

This change occurred as a by-product of the agreement the Village made last year with SOCRRA. Instead of taking the Village's recycling material to a private recycler, Car Trucking now takes it to SOCRRA's (South Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority) facility in Troy.

More paper products can be recycled too:

- ♦ Office paper-any color,
- ♦ Junk mail-window envelopes
- ♦ Construction paper
- ♦ Manila folders-no metal clamps
- ♦ Loose-leaf paper
- ♦ Computer paper
- ♦ Carbonless forms
- ♦ Paper plates and cups
- ♦ Paperboard beverage containers such as milk cartons and juice boxes

Do not recycle paper disposables such as napkins, tissues, hand towels, table covers and placemats.

See Pg. 5 for more information on recycling or log on to SOCRRA's website at www.socrra.org.

Any questions, call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

A BIG THANK YOU

THANK YOU RESIDENTS!

It often appears that the Village is constantly badgering residents about following the rules for Winter Maintenance, especially regarding private snow removal contractors and snow rows...those lines of snow left across the road after a contractor has plowed a driveway.

The Village sent out only 18 reminder letters this season.

Johnson Landscaping has plowed the village roads for the past several years. They've cited two problems with snow rows: safety for vehicles and pedestrians using the road and the diffi-

culty for the contractor when the piles of snow at a location flow onto the road.

The Village makes every effort to avoid issuing civil infraction tickets. So the response from residents this season was terrific.

The Village has spent almost \$24,000 to plow and salt the roads this season. That's down slightly from the \$28,000 that was spent the prior year.

Here's hoping mother nature is somewhat kinder to us next winter.



POLICE & FIRE PHONE NUMBERS

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| EMERGENCY | 9-1-1 |
| DISPATCH | 248-626-5444 |
| POLICE DEPT. | 248-626-9672 |
| FIRE DEPT. | 248-626-9862 |

Check out the Village website at www.binghamfarms.org.

You'll find regular updates of events, meeting minutes and links to other organizations.

UPDATE ON RECYCLING REGULATIONS



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS

- All bottles including blue and green wine bottles. (NEW)
- Clean. NO caps. Labels are OK.
- NO window glass, light bulbs, dishes or ceramic mugs.
- NO broken glass for safety reasons.



METAL & ALUMINUM CANS, PIE TINS

- Clean. Labels do not have to be removed.
- Clean aluminum trays & pie tins
- NO foil
- NO aerosol
- Place loose metal lids inside metal cans and squeeze or leave lids slightly attached and fold in.



PLASTIC JUGS & BOTTLES

- All plastic containers that fit in the recycling bin.
- Rinse clean. Labels do not have to be removed.
- Flatten, if possible
- NO caps. They are made of non-recyclable plastic
- NO microwaveable plates
- NO motor oil containers or hazardous projects containers
- NO plastic bags



TELEPHONE BOOKS

- Place in recycling bin



PAPER

- Newspaper and all inserts (TV Guide OK)
- All paper (including white paper)
- Empty food and beverage boxes, milk cartons, paper cups, drink & juice boxes.
- NO plastic bags or plastic sleeves
- Cardboard OK - must be broken down & tied. Cannot be any larger than 2' x 3'



GLOSSY MAGAZINES & ADVERTISEMENTS

- Magazines—with or without staples
- Advertisements on glossy & semi-glossy paper
- NO envelopes of any kind
- DO NOT mix with newspaper
- Tie newspapers securely with string. Place inside the bin if it fits, otherwise place on top of the recycling bin.



HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

- All AA, AAA, C, D, button, 9-volt and rechargeable batteries. Store in a clear plastic bag; place inside bin.
- NO fire or smoke alarm batteries
- NO auto batteries



Questions? Call the Village at 248.644.0044

LARGE ITEM PICK UP REGULATIONS

Date: Thursday June 4, 2009

Time: All large items at street by 7:00 a.m.

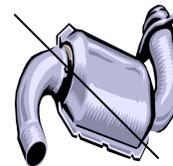
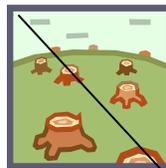
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- * Large appliances, furniture and hot water heaters
(Refrigerators & freezers must have Freon removed prior to pick up)
- * Only small tree stumps
- * Brush and tree branches must be bundled and the length not to exceed four feet
- * Rolls of carpet and linoleum must be tied together with the length not to exceed four feet
- * Disposal of construction materials is limited to one 32-gallon trash container



UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- * Large tree stumps
- * Hazardous waste
- * Automotive parts
- * Tires
- * Loose gravel
- * Large amounts of construction material & loose items



Car Trucking has the right to refuse to pick up excessive amounts of materials. If you have a large quantity of items, please call Car Trucking at **586-791-8480** and make special arrangements. Car Trucking does have dumpsters (roll-offs) available.

Recession-Busting at the Baldwin Public Library

During economic downturns library usage increases. This holds true at the Baldwin Library too. Library usage has been growing by 10% per year for the last 7 years. Baldwin is a great place to start whether you are penny-pinching, job hunting or looking for free entertainment.

First, there are the books. If you are looking for a place to trim your personal budget, then consider borrowing, rather than buying your reading materials. This also holds true for DVDs, CDs and Audio books. You can even download audio books, ebooks and reference information from the website www.baldwinlib.org.

Next, take advantage of the trained information professionals who have already done the heavy lifting of finding materials for you. They know what the library has to offer and how to find it. Are you job hunting? Stop by the Adult Service desk for expert advice on resources and how to construct a resume that stands out. You can also visit the library's website for an extensive directory of job and career-related links.

Consider using the library's computers for your research and email needs. Bring in your laptop to use our free wireless network.

Looking for free events for children, teens or the whole family? Browse the pages of [Books and Beyond](#), the library's newsletter or check the library's website for events each month from storytelling events for preschoolers to teen game nights to author presentations.

If you or your organization is looking for low cost meeting space, the library has rooms that can be reserved for a small fee. These spaces are in high demand and reservations fill up fast.

Baldwin was organized in 1907 and has been serving the community continuously for 102 years. In this 21st century digital age, it is still a great bargain for Bingham Farms. Use it and use it often.

NOXIOUS WEEDS ORDINANCE NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

It does not happen often, but there are times when property owners move away and the property is not maintained, especially lawn mowing. Grass that reaches a height of 8-inches or more is considered a noxious weed.

Before the Village steps in to remove the violation, an annual notice is published in the Eccentric newspaper advising owners of the noxious weed ordinance. After the newspaper notice, the Village has the ability to act.

When an infraction occurs, a letter is sent to the property owner giving him ten days to rectify the situation. If not resolved within that time period, the Village will contract with a landscape company to cut the lawn.

The notice reads:

"Pursuant to Section 95.36(A), the Village hereby publishes notice to property owners that noxious weeds existing on a property as of May 1 of that year may be cut, mowed or removed by the Village, with the property owner charged with the Village's actual and administrative costs and expenses in doing so, as many times that calendar year as necessary to keep the property free from noxious weeds.

Specifically, the Village will provide written notice to owners of property upon which noxious weeds exist, and to occupants and agents of said owners known to the Village: (i) to cut, mow or remove the noxious weeds within 10 days of the date of the notice, (ii) to thereafter maintain the property free from noxious weeds, (iii) that upon a failure or refusal to do so, that the Commissioner, by Village employees or contractors, will enter upon the property and perform the required cutting, mowing or removal, (iv) that payment of the Village's actual and administrative expenses incurred in cutting, mowing or removal is the responsibility of the property owners and is secured by a lien on the property, (v) that the existence of noxious weeds is a public nuisance and (vi) of any public nuisance hearing that may be scheduled before the Village Council under Section 95.08."



COMPOST SEASON BEGINS

Now that spring is officially here, the weekly pick up of compost begins on April 9 and will run through the end of November.

Compost materials include leaves, grass and dead plants and small bushes.



All compost should be placed in **brown paper bags** or tied into bundles no more than 4' in length. Compost placed in plastic bags go as regular trash as the plastic does not disintegrate quickly.

PERMITS NEEDED

Looking for a quick rule of thumb as to when permits are needed? Here are some tips that hopefully will help.

- Home Additions - Yes
- Driveway Repair - Yes
- Roofing - Yes
- Electrical Work - Yes
- Plumbing - Yes
- Landscaping - It Depends

Should you have any questions, call the Village office first at 248-644-0044. A quick call could save you a few headaches and unexpected expenses.

EXACTLY WHAT DOES THE PLANNING COMMISSION DO?

The Village often sends out an appeal for volunteers to serve on a number of Boards. Probably, many residents have no clue what these Boards do, why they're needed or what type of background one might need to be appointed.

The Planning Commission was formed in 1957 in conjunction with the adoption of the Village's Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission's main responsibility is to prepare the Master Plan, which is made for the "general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the municipality and its environs."

The Planning Commission is also responsible for approving site plans in the commercial district and certain residential districts as well as approving site plan amendments. They also review and recommend to Council all zoning

amendments.

The Commission meets on the 2nd Monday of each month when there is business to conduct. There are normally 6-9 meetings per year.

There are nine members on the Commission, one of which is a member of the Council. Members are appointed by the Village President and all appointments are subject to the approval of the Council.

There are no specific areas of expertise needed to sit on the Planning Commission, just a desire to serve the community and a commitment to work for what is best for the Village. Current members are from the following professions: engineers, interior designer, graphic artist, attorney, doctor and general business.

Commission terms are for three years. Commission terms are staggered

to provide consistency. Appointments and re-appointments are normally made in March.

The current members of the Planning Commission are:

- Earl Wolfe - Chairman
- D. E. Hagaman - Vice Chair & PC Liaison to DRB
- Jan Freedman - also PC Liaison to DRB
- Nat Towle
- Ted Wells
- Karl Ochadleus*
- Kathleen Yaremchuk
- Rodger Kesley - Council Liaison to PC
- Vacancy

*New Appointment

WHAT IS THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD?

The Design Review Board was created in 1982, after construction of the first office building on Telegraph Rd. Residents wanted to protect the natural topography and avoid what was termed a "concrete jungle" in the commercial zone.

The Board's objective as defined in the Ordinance, is "to preserve, protect and enhance the ecologically and historically unique environment and aesthetic charm of the Village". The Board is charged with preserving the Village's natural beauty, vegetation and visual character and making sure improvements are properly related to their sites.

The DRB reviews plans for all new construction and renovation in both the residential and non-residential areas. They review all applications for grading permits and site developments.

Seven volunteers sit on the Design Review Board, two from the Planning Commission (appointed by the PC Chairman) and five others who are appointed by the Village President. All appointments are subject to Council ap-

proval. Board members serve a three-year term.

Preferred backgrounds for the DRB included: Registered Architect, Registered Landscape Architect, Registered Professional Community Planner, Attorney, Artist, Geologist, Horticulturist, Environmentalist or other person professionally competent in a related field. In recent years, residents who have built new homes have been appointed to the DRB as they have first hand knowledge of the process.



The current composition of the Board includes two interior designers, a graphic artist, a home inspector, an attorney, an engineer and a resident who built a new home in the Village.

The Design Review Board meets on the first Monday of the month when there is business to conduct. There

are between 6-9 meetings per year.

The current membership on the Design Review Board is as follows:

- Harrell Scarcello - Chair
- Fritz Hatt
- Jeffrey Modell
- Donna Murray-Charles
- Jim Valiquett
- D.E. Hagaman (from PC)
- Jan Freedman (from PC)

**Village of Bingham Farms
Village Clerk's Office
24255 W.Thirteen Mile Rd. Ste. 190
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
248.644.0044**

(Return Completed Application to Above Address)

APPLICATION FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Thank you for your interest in serving on an Advisory Board or Committee. The purpose of this form is to provide the President and Village Trustees with basic information about residents considered for appointment.

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Date: _____

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Employer: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip _____

How long have you lived continuously in the Village of Bingham Farms? _____

Are you a registered voter in Bingham Farms? Yes ___ No ___

Are you related to an elected official or employee of the Village? Yes ___ No ___

What is your relationship to elected official or employee? _____

Have you ever been convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation? Yes ___ No ___

Select which Board(s) you wish to apply for in the order of your preference: 1= First Choice 2=Second Choice

- ___ Design Review Board
- ___ Planning Commission
- ___ Cable Board

Professional Qualifications and/or Work Experience:

Community Activities and/or Other Experience:

Educational Background:

References (Please list name and address):

Indicate reasons for desiring to serve:

Applicant's Signature _____

Note: Your application will be kept on file for 2 years

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received by: _____ Date: _____

ROAD WORK PLANS

This summer, drivers may run into more road work than usual. Michigan is expected to receive approximately \$461 million from the federal stimulus plan for road and bridge work. Oakland County is expected to receive about \$26 million. Unfortunately the Village will not receive anything for work on its local roads.



However, the Village is forging ahead to complete its road reconstruction program. Monies for this work will be pulled from the Village's General Fund.

Here's what's on tap in the Village.

As soon as the weather warms up and the asphalt plants reopen, work on Old Orchard Trail will resume. The early onset of winter forced the Village to button up the project for the winter.

Shagwood is next on the list. Work is scheduled to begin after July 1. The entire road will be reconstructed which includes complete removal of the asphalt and base. Some drainage improvements will be made where necessary.

Road reconstruction is a major expense in the Village Budget. The costs for recent road projects is over \$250,000 per project. Costs for the Old Orchard Trail and Shagwood reconstruction projects are expected to fall in that range.

Due to the cost of these projects, the Village has budgeted to complete one major road project in a fiscal year. Although gasoline prices have made a major retreat from the summer highs, asphalt prices have not followed suit. The Village is making every effort to complete its road projects without taking on debt in the form of bond issues.

Regular road maintenance, such as crack sealing and patching, will continue as needed. The village entered into an Agreement with Beverly Hills to use their DPW services. This helps hold down our maintenance costs and improves response time.

GREEN GARDENING WORKSHOPS OFFERED

It seems SE Michigan has been trying for decades to clean up the Rouge River. Municipalities have continued to implement ways to stem upstream pollution, especially from storm water overflow.

Residents are starting to take individual steps to reduce pollutants that enter into the waterways. Some have created Rain Gardens which absorb pollutants, like fertilizer, from entering the waterways.

The Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) has created program to help residents. There are fact sheets and how-to-do-it videos available on their website www.socwa.org.

Upcoming workshops are scheduled throughout the spring. Some are free.

- **Making Compost the Easy Way, Sat. April 18** 10 am - 3 pm English Gardens, Royal Oak and,
- **Reducing Garden Chemicals, Sat. May 16** 10:30 am Demonstrations Four Seasons Garden Center, 14471 Eleven Mile Rd. Oak Park
- Mon., June 29** 7 pm - 8:30 pm Community House of Birmingham \$30.00 fee for book & materials

GOLF OUTING

Hey, you don't have to be Tiger Woods to join this outing. The Beverly Hills Lions Club is holding its 2009 Charity Golf Outing on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at the Shenandoah County Club in West Bloomfield.



All proceeds go to benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind & Beaumont Hospital Silent Children's Fund.

Any questions, email bhliionsgolf@comcast.net

DO YOU KNOW?

Like other municipalities, the Village has adopted ordinances to keep the peace and tranquility of our community. A few snippets of those ordinances follow.

- ♦ Vehicles for Sale - it's unlawful to display a vehicle for sale on a public road or right of way. This includes cars parked at the end of a driveway. (Sec.95.10) 
- ♦ Construction noise not allowed after dusk or before 7:00 a.m. No construction on Sundays. (Sec. 95.21 A) 
- ♦ After 11:00 p.m., tone down outside noise (Sec. 95.21 E) 
- ♦ Underground fences for dogs are not to be placed in the front yard unless approved by the Village Council. (Sec. 157.007 N) 
- ♦ Yard sales are allowed and no permit is needed. Signs must be removed immediately following the end of the sale. 
- ♦ No more than three regulated trees may be removed from a site within a 2-year time period without obtaining a permit. The removal of dead or damaged trees does not require a permit. (Sec. 93.01-93.11) 

The complete ordinance may be found on the Village website, www.binghamfarms.org. Click on the link "Code". If you have any questions, call the Village office at 248.644.0044.

HELP STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING

Every year the village picks up the tab to haul away debris dumped in the Village rights of way. It ranges from a truck full of old tires to wood chips to tree trunks.

If you see anything suspicious, such as a slow-moving, fully loaded truck, call police dispatch at **248.626.5444**. Getting the license number or a description of the truck will help police track down the scofflaws.

If caught, the culprits face stiff fines and must remove the debris or reimburse the Village for its costs.

VILLAGE OFFICES HOLIDAY CLOSURES

May 25th - Memorial Day

July 6th - Independence Day



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bingham Farms

Franklin/Bingham Fire Dept. Open House - May 14
5:00 p. m. - 8:00 p.m.

Large Item Pick Up - June 4th

Birmingham

Fine Arts Festival—Shain Park

May 9 - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

May 10 - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Village Fair - May 28-31

In The Park Concerts - Wednesdays at 7 p.m. **Booth Park**
Concert Hot Line - 248. 30.1650

Fireworks - July 3rd at dusk - Lincoln Hills Golf Course

Franklin

Garden Walk - June 10 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. -
9:00 p.m. Questions 248-737-0914

Beverly Hills

Fun Run & Walk - May 25 at 9:30 a.m.– Beverly School
Parade & Carnival - May 25 at 11:30 a.m.– Beverly Park

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Birmingham, MI
Permit No. 217

Village of Bingham Farms
24255 Thirteen Mile Road #190
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
(248) 644-0044

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discretion of the staff.