



# THE BINGHAM FARMS POST

Winter, 2017

## Winter Maintenance Reminders

This winter season certainly started with a brutal punch. Lots of snow, followed by frigid temperatures.

However, each year the Village encounters the same problem with just a few residents who hire contractors to plow the snow from their driveways. The plow companies just push the snow across the road and dump it on a neighbor's property. Hopefully, this year will be better.

Here are the snow rules for winter 2017.

### 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



**Cont. on Pg. 4**

## November Election Results

This election cycle certainly was a wild one. Fortunately, the poll workers in Southfield Township did an outstanding job, along with Clerk Tischler and her staff.

There are a total of 11,780 registered voters in the Township (encompasses Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin) and 9,975 voted, that's an 83% turnout. But Township voters consistently turn out for elections. The highest percentage of voter turnout was back in 2004 at 85.5%.

In the races of interest, here are the totals Township wide:

President: Clinton 5,302  
Trump 3,806

Regional Transit: Yes 4,988  
No 3,489

Bingham Farms also had Council seats up for election. As this was an uncontested race, all three candidates garnered a seat.

Carole Chiamp 359 votes  
Ben Templeton 352  
Carl Grenadier 340

There are 894 registered voters in Bingham Farms.

**Cont. on Pg. 5**

## DEER POPULATION ON THE RISE

They're lovely to look at. But they sure can cause damage. Goodbye vegetation. Trees aren't safe either, subject to what is called buck rub, where the buck rubs its antlers on tree bark.

The deer population is increasing in Bingham Farms. But it's just not a local problem, it's a national problem.

Some communities, such as Ann Arbor, are trying to take a proactive approach and are using combination of techniques from culling the herd through sharpshooters to sterilization. They are doing this in their large park areas and nature areas.

The cost is high. The estimated cost for their program is close to \$155,000. This is not a one-time cost.

Rochester Hills attempted one culling with sharpshooters, but that was met with resident resistance. They have adopted an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of all wildlife, except for birds.

The Ann Arbor program is viable because of their large open areas. Bingham Farms does not have that. However, they currently are defending two lawsuits.

Birth Control and other options are just in the research stages and not doable in the near term.

Deer do have one natural predator, coyotes. However, they seek out deer who are vulnerable.

For now, it is recommended that residents use local products, such as commercial scent repellents like Hinder, RoPel and Tree Guard to deter deer feeding on vegetation. These products are available at local nursery centers.

**Cont. on Pg. 5**



## Operation Medicine Cabinet Available at the Franklin Police Dept.

Not sure how to dispose of unused prescription pills? Here's a pretty easy and safe 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 sharps though.

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

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

That's it. No questions asked. No names placed on the pill bags that are deposited. The contents are then taken to Oakland County where they are disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

It's quick and it eliminates 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

## Library Notes

The renovation of the Baldwin Public Library's Adult Services continues through May 2017. In the next few months, new windows will be installed along the southwest corner of the building. Follow along with the project at [www.baldwinlib.org/renovation](http://www.baldwinlib.org/renovation). The Library remains open throughout the renovation and visitors are still able to access new books, DVDs & Blu-Rays, though some of the permanent collection is in storage.

Hear White House Reporter April Ryan, author of *At Mama's Knee: Mothers and Race in Black and White*, talk on Friday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. for Politics & Prosecco. Enjoy a glass of prosecco while Ms. Ryan discusses her book and experiences as a

White House reporter.

Baldwin hosts book clubs for all ages, from Kindergarteners through adults. Read and discuss a variety of books with likeminded individuals each month. Visit [www.baldwinlib.org/bookclubs](http://www.baldwinlib.org/bookclubs) for a complete list of discussion groups.

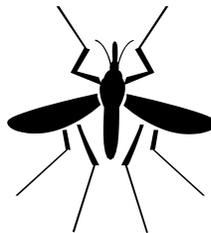
If you are a member of another book club, be sure to check out our Book Club Boot Camp on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. You'll learn book selection tips, discussion techniques, and great resources for finding discussion questions.

Cont. on Pg. 4

## West Nile Virus Infections On the Rise in 2016

Looks like the impact of West Nile Virus was more severe this year. There were 41 human cases reported, up significantly from the 18 cases last year. In Oakland County there were 9 cases reported with 2 deaths. The virus is still around. There were also 36 bird infections confirmed in Oakland County.

These results show that precautionary measures are working as people try 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. Spe-

cifically,

- ♦ 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 outdoors.
- ♦ Apply insect repellants that contain the active ingredient DEET to 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.**

They risk their lives to keep us safe. They go unrecognized until there is an emergency. They are the Franklin/Bingham Farms Fire Dept. firefighters. Fire Chief Tony Averbuch and Lt. Tim Adams are the only paid members. They lead 29 volunteers.

Whether you are a volunteer firefighter or a full time firefighter, you are trained the same. The FBFD are generally trained to the level of Firefighter II. The EMS team operates at a Basic Life Support level (with simultaneous response by the Advanced Life Support private transport unit).

The fire department is staffed on a daily basis. There are two employees full-time at the station from approximately 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. weekdays. At other times, there is normally a per diem firefighter at the station.

When a call comes in, especially in the evenings and early morning hours, there will be one firefighter on duty. The rest come from home, business or other activities. On average 3-5 re-

spond for EMS calls, 4-6 respond for vehicle crash calls, and a dozen for fire alarm calls. These are averages and depending on the specifics, more or less may respond.

Bingham Farms shares the Fire Department, enabling both Villages to obtain an excellent level of service. Our commercial district offsets Franklin’s larger residential area so the incident burden is roughly equal.

The table below shows data relative to the number of calls, and volunteer time committed to station time.

It is amazing the dedication these firefighters show to keep both Villages safe. 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. This is time they take away from family, work and other activities. Even when not at the station, they are on call.

Your elected officials look at the table and key in on the number of false alarms that came in in 2015. It’s more than 22% of all calls. Yes, that means unpaid volunteers frequently

leave work or family because a resident decides to treat the fire department as free household help instead of hiring a home care worker or because a landlord is too cheap to fix a badly wired alarm system. There are disincentives for false alarms, but to secure the public safety our first responders must treat every incident as serious.

Further, the Department is part of three separate mutual aid agreements, but also has the ability to request assistance from 32 fire departments in Oakland County. For specialized incident needs (tech rescue and HazMat), the Department can leverage resources within these agreements above with what the department internally maintains.

We have an outstanding Fire Department but it did not just make itself. Chief Averbuch too, deserves our gratitude for building and maintaining the culture of excellence.

**2015 Franklin Bingham Farms Fire Department Response Review**

	2015	2014	2013
Total Incidents	463	577	511
Personnel Station Time Committed	3,379 hrs.	4,450 hrs.	3,855 hrs.
Total Individual Incident Response	2,103	3,179	2,764
Annual Average Response Time	4.16 min	4.35 min	4.37 min

**2015 Incident Classifications**

Fires	9	False Alarms	104
EMS	254	Others	48
Hazardous Cond.	52		

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

**VILLAGE COUNCIL  
 MEETINGS  
 2017  
 January 23  
 February 27  
 March 27**

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

## Change Your Clocks Change Your Batteries

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This may seem premature but consider this a heads up that come Spring, clocks will move forward. Come **March 12th**, we give back that extra hour of sleep gained in the fall.

Turn your clocks ahead one hour on that Sunday. Or as many do, turn them back before you go to bed that 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.



### Winter Maintenance Cont. from Page 1

salt the roads is based on the assessment of the police department taking into consideration current weather as well as local forecasts.

### 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.

## Winter Travel Tips

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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.
5. Take your cell phone with you along with a battery charger.
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

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



## Library Notes

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### Other Upcoming Programs

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Miz Rosie – *Monday, January 16 at 3:00 p.m.*

Cupcake Decorating for Teens, with Amalia Bakery – *Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.*

Empowerment Self Defense for Women, with Jaye Spiro – *Saturday, January 21 at 10:30 a.m.*

The Three Little Pigs Building Challenge – *Tuesday, January 21 at 4:30 p.m.*  
Howell Nature Center: Amazing Animal Athletes – *Thursday, February 23 at 10:30 a.m.*



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.

## ***Southfield Twp. Cancels Annual Household Shredding Event***

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Southfield Twp. has cancelled its annual household shredding event that had been held in April.

This popular program became too burdensome for the small staff to handle along with increasing costs.

But Bingham Farms residents have another no-cost option. The SOCERRA facility located on Coolidge Road in Royal Oak has a self-serve heavy duty shredding machine.

You just drive up, unload your boxes of recycling and put the materials on the conveyor belt. Each pile must be 1/4 of an inch deep.

Three bank storage sized boxes can be shredded in less than 10 minutes.

Give it a try. It's quick and it's easy.

## ***Baldwin Public Library Comes to NEXT***

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New services are now available to seniors if they are members of NEXT.

The Baldwin Public Library now has a library kiosk in the NEXT lobby. Members can borrow a variety of regular and large print books, audiobooks and DVDs.

If you don't want to drive to Birmingham, you can request that items from the Baldwin Library be delivered to the Next lobby for easy pick up. All you have to do is call the Library at 248.554.4650 by Wednesday to request your items and they'll be available at Next on Thursday afternoon. You can also return main library items in the new drop box at NEXT.

Now, that's pretty easy.

## ***Audiobook Delivery Service Available***

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Another new service is available for people with low vision. The Oakland Talking Book Service (OTBS) is a free service that loans talking books and magazines, large print books, Braille and talking book players to eligible Oakland County residents of all ages.

If you are unable to read or use standard printed materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations, you should qualify.

A talking book player and materials will be mailed at no cost as Free Matter for the Blind.

For more information, please call Outreach Services at Rochester Hills Public Library at 248.650.7150 or check out <http://otbs.rhpl.org>.

## ***NEXT Offers More Programs To Seniors***

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When asked what's new around **Next – Your Place to Stay Active and Connected**, programmer Julie Mandich said, "We always have something new to offer. We are continually adding exciting and innovative programs and classes to better meet the needs of our membership."

And that membership is changing according to Executive Director Cris Braun, "As our membership grows we have seen a downward shift in the average age of members and we are responding to that with our programming and support services.

These members are, in many cases, part of the sandwich generation." The sandwich generation refers to those who are "sandwiched" between still caring for their children in some fashion and caring for elderly parents.

"Next's Support Service Department is there to help ease the burden of

caring for elderly parents with information, referrals, medical equipment loans, transportation, counseling and much more," Braun added.

**Next** has also introduced programs like yoga, barre classes, group and individual personal training, healthy cooking programs and other classes designed to keep people fit while reducing stress.

For those looking for a creative outlet, **Next** offers a number of art classes including a new pottery class.

To serve its members that are still working, **Next** is now open until 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday, 5:00 pm on Fridays and on Saturdays until 2:00 pm.

To see everything **Next** has to offer, stop by the center at 2121 Midvale or check out their user friendly website at **BirminghamNext.org**.

**CHECK OUT  
THE  
VILLAGE WEBSITE  
FOR ALL THE NEWS  
[www.binghamfarms.org](http://www.binghamfarms.org)**

### **Deer Management Cont. from Pg. 1**

Also, wrapping young tree trunks in wire mesh will deter buck rub and protect these trees.

The Village website has a copy of the deer management report. Log on to [binghamfarms.org](http://binghamfarms.org).

### **Elections Cont. from Pg. 1**

There are a total of seven seats on Council: President and 6 trustees.

The terms are staggered to preserve continuity on Council.

In 2018 there will be three trustee seats up for election along with the President's seat.

## **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.

## Common Complaints From Village Residents

There are three common complaints the Village hears.

1. Barking Dogs - Did you know the Village has an ordinance that prohibits incessant barking. Not everyone loves dogs and even those that do can get annoyed with constant barking.

Sometimes a simple phone call to the offending neighbor can resolve the problem. If not, call Animal Control at 248.540.3420. If they are not open, give our police dispatch a call at 248.626.5444. Our police officers are pretty good at finding the errant dog.



2. Speeding - The Franklin Bingham Police officers are regularly patrolling the streets in Bingham Farms, enforcing the speed limits and especially stop signs. It's amazing how many people either ignore the stop signs completely or roll right through them



Please observe the speed limits and stop signs to keep everyone in the Village safe.

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February 27  
March 27**

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## HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

### JANUARY

#### Birmingham

Birmingham Restaurant Week - Jan. 30 - Feb. 3

Birmingham Ice Arena - Public Open Skate - call 248.530.1642 for open times

Village Players - "Doubt: A Parable" Jan. 20-22 Jan. 27-29  
Call 248.644.2075

### FEBRUARY

#### Birmingham

Restaurant Week - Birmingham Feb. 6-10

Birmingham Concert Band - "Music & the World of Dance"  
Mar. 5th at 3:00 p.m. - Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

### MARCH

#### Birmingham

Village Players "You Can't Take It With You?" Mar. 10-12  
Mar. 17-19 & Mar. 24-26 Call 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 published quarterly by the Village of Bingham Farms.

Editor: Kathryn Hagaman  
clerk@binghamfarms.org

The next edition of the Post is scheduled for April 2017. Deadline for submission of articles is March 15, 2017.

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