

The Bingham Farms Post

MARCH 2020

Life with Coyotes

Coyote sightings don't surprise Dave Weber, Southfield Township's Animal Control Officer. The township provides animal control services to Bingham Farms. More sightings doesn't necessarily mean more coyotes

"Every year at this time, with less foliage, coyotes are spotted more often as they move around," he said. "Winter limits the food source, and that makes coyotes more active and visible."

Coyotes are the region's top predator. Some species that are considered coyotes' natural prey hibernate through winter. Others, like field mice, move closer to buildings that are typically warmer. Coyotes follow the food, which brings them closer to homes, sheds and garages. Backyard feeders attract small mammals as well as birds, and the rodents lure coyotes.

"We have waterways, vast properties and not much fencing," Weber said. "We offer the perfect ecosystem for all wildlife. It's just ideal for them. We have high traffic on Thirteen Mile, Fourteen Mile and Telegraph, but within those boundaries, we have the perfect environment for animals."

Weber recommended not feeding wildlife and not feeding pets outside. Not only does the latter put pets at risk -- any animal under 40 pounds is likely fair game -- but dog and cat food also attracts omnivorous coyotes. However, the presence of coyotes actually has some benefits as well.

"They help us," Weber said. "They eat a lot of rodents. They eat a bunch of mice that therefore don't go into your house."

Besides not feeding wildlife or pets, the Urban Coyote Initiative suggests picking up fallen fruit from trees, cleaning outdoor grills, securing trashcan lids, and covering compost piles.

Experts say coyotes have a natural fear of humans. But those that are fed, intentionally or not, can become more accustomed to human contact. As a general safety rule, don't allow pets to roam free in your yard and always walk dogs on a leash.

Read the full article on the website under "Village News."

1



Bingham Farms Office

Residents and commercial property owners are encouraged to contact the Bingham Farms staff with any questions or concerns. Call 248-644-0044, email info@binghamfarms.org, and visit www.binghamfarms.org. Office hours are 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday.

New: Notary Services

Village Manager/Clerk Ken Marten is a Notary Public, and the village now offers notary services. There is no charge for village residents, and a \$10 charge per notarial act for non-residents.

Need something notarized? For more information and to make appointment, contact the village office.

Election 2020

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. There will be four village trustee seats on the ballot -- three full term seats (4 years) and one partial-term seat (2 years). Trustee Candidates must file petitions with the Southfield Township Clerk's Office by 4 pm Tuesday, July 21. Petitions are available in the Bingham Farms office.

Simple Recycling: Easy as 1, 2, 3

Is it time for spring cleaning? Rather than throw out used clothes, recycle them instead. The village contracts with Simple Recycling, a curbside clothes collection program that reuses items and keeps them out of landfill.

Simple Recycling accepts clothing, coats and jackets, shoes, purses, hats, toys, blankets, curtains and drapes, pillows, sleeping bags and jewelry.

Follow the steps below. Need bags? Stop by the village office or visit simplerecycling.com. Complete the "request bags" form.



Lecture Series: How Local Government Works

Curious about how local government functions day-to-day? Village manager Ken Marten will conduct a four-part lecture series on the topic beginning in March. Topics will include infrastructure and geography; public involvement and engagement; differences between villages, cities and townships; planning and zoning; budgeting and revenue.

Each hour-long lecture will include time for questions and answers. Lectures will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Village Council chambers on Thursdays March 5 and 19, April 2 and 16. Light refreshments will be on hand.

Participation is limited to 15. There's no cost to attend, but participants must register. Call the village office, 248-644-0044.

2020 meeting schedule

The Bingham Farms Village Council meets monthly at 7:30 p.m., typically on the fourth Monday of the month.

Below is the 2020 schedule, with holiday adjustments.

Mon. Jan. 27
Mon. Feb. 17
Mon. March 23
Mon. April 27
Tue. May 26
Mon. June 22
Mon. July 27
Mon. Aug. 24
Tues. Sep. 29
Mon. Oct. 26
Mon. Nov. 23
Mon. Dec. 21

Council Chambers is located in the village office, 24255 13 Mile, Suite 190, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

Important numbers

Emergency: 911
Police dispatch: 626-5444
Police office: 626-9672
Fire office: 626-9862
DTE: 800-477-4747
Consumers Energy: 800-477-5050