

## Village Office

Residents and commercial property owners are encouraged to contact village staff with any questions or concerns. See below for contact information. Office hours are 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. Village Manager Ken Marten's email is [kmarten@binghamfarms.org](mailto:kmarten@binghamfarms.org).

## Did you lose power?

DTE asks that you tell them Asap. Go to [www.dteenergy.com](http://www.dteenergy.com) to report an outage and choose how you want to receive updates on restoration status (phone or email).

You can also report downed power lines, view the regional outage map, read estimated restoration times

## Seniors: Stay Active

Next is your place connect and socialize. It offers hundreds of programs and activities, from pickle ball and chess to concerts, day trips and lecture series. Family membership is \$70 annually. Call 248-203-5270 or visit [www.birminghamnext.org](http://www.birminghamnext.org)

## Village President's Message

Hello and Happy Holidays!

I'm pleased to introduce myself to you as the new Village of Bingham Farms President. I am honored to take on this new role and look forward to serving the Village for the next 4 years. I have been on Council since 2018 as a Trustee as well as serving on several committees including Planning Commission, Birmingham Area Cable Board, Hiring, Police & Fire, Budget, and Family Festival.

My family moved to Bingham Farms in 2015. My husband, Jay, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones. Our son graduated from Grand Valley State University in December and our daughter will graduate from Colorado University Boulder in May. Becoming empty nesters will allow me more time to focus on the work of the Village and I look forward to the challenge.

Previously, we lived on Grosse Ile, where I served on the Grosse Ile Board of Education, served as president of the PTA, and was a member of the Education Foundation Executive Board. Please help us welcome new Village Council Trustee Debbie Hedge, who was appointed to fill the remaining two years of the seat vacated when I was elected to the village presidency.

Feel free to reach out to me anytime with questions, concerns, or suggestions. Email me at [lblackburn@binghamfarms.org](mailto:lblackburn@binghamfarms.org) or call the Village Office at 248-644-0044 and they will forward me your contact information.

Wishing you and yours a happy, safe & healthy 2023!

***Lisa Blackburn,***  
***Village of Bingham Farms President***



# Bingham Farms Post Winter 2023

## Dates to Remember

- Christmas shutdown: Office closed Friday, **December 23** through Monday, **January 2**.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, **January 16**. No mail, banks and gov't offices closed.
- Presidents Day, Monday, **February 20**. No mail, banks and gov't offices closed.
- Daylight Saving Time begins, 2 a.m. Sunday **March 12**. Move clocks forward one hour.
- Good Friday, **April 7**. Most gov't offices closed. Easter Sunday is **April 9**.
- Tax Day deadline, Tuesday, **April 18**. Moved from April 15 due to the weekend and April 17 Emancipation Day – a legal holiday in Washington, D.C., where the IRS is headquartered.
- Memorial Day, Monday, **May 29**. No mail, banks and gov't offices closed.



24255 Thirteen Mile Rd.  
Suite 190  
Bingham Farms, MI 48025

 248-644-0044

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

DTE: 800-477-4747

Police Office: 248-626-9672

Fire Office: 248-626-9862

Emergency: 911

MISS DIG: 811

Consumers Energy: 800-477-5050

Water Resources: 248-858-0958

## Village Council Meetings

All regular council meetings are in-person and begin at 7 pm on the fourth Monday of the month unless noted. Masks are optional. There is no longer a teleconference component, but meetings are recorded and broadcast on local access channels.

- January 23
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 22
- June 26
- July 24
- August 28
- September 18 (third Monday)
- October 23
- November 27
- December 18 (third Monday)

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Council study sessions are held 5:30 pm the Wednesday before the regular meeting. Study Sessions are not recorded.

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The Planning Commission meets 7:30 pm on the second Monday of the month as needed.

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All meetings are noticed and posted on the village website homepage approximately 72 hours prior. Links to agendas and packets are included.

## Snow Removal: Winter is here

**Plowing public roads:** Winter will be here soon. Snowplows hit public roads as soon as two 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. Salting is based on the assessment of the police department. Similar to last year, the village will salt public roads when necessary.

Village-owned public roads include Bingham Road, Bingham Lane, Bristol Lane, Bristol Court, Brittner, Coach Light, Fromm, Hickory Hollow, Old Orchard, Old Stage, Sager, Shagwood, and Timber Trail.

If you have concerns regarding snow removal from public roads, call the village office rather than the village's contractor.

**RCOC:** The Road Commission for Oakland County plows Thirteen Mile, Fourteen Mile and Telegraph.

**Respect your neighbors:** Village ordinances prohibit plowing snow from one property and depositing on another -- public or private. Snow must remain on the property on which it falls. Violators may be ticketed. Please inform your snow removal contractor.

## 40th annual kids' dog show

Does your dog have the waggiest tail? Kids aged 4-14 are invited to bring their pups to Berkshire Middle School in Beverly Hills on Sunday, February 5, to compete in the Birmingham Youth Assistance 40th annual Kids' Dog Show. Zany, low-stress competition events include Best Looking, Best Costume, Best Trick, Musical Sit (similar to musical chairs), and Waggiest Tail.

\$15 per dog entry fee buys admission for the whole family and some free goodies. Register in advance (required) by Friday, February 3 at [www.BirminghamYouthAssistance.org](http://www.BirminghamYouthAssistance.org). Questions? Contact [BYAKidsDogShow@gmail.com](mailto:BYAKidsDogShow@gmail.com) or 248-203-4300.

## LIFE WITH COYOTES

Coyote sightings may be on the rise all over metro Detroit, but that doesn't surprise Dave Weber, Southfield Township's Animal Control Officer. The township provides animal control services to the villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

An increase in sightings doesn't necessarily mean there are more coyotes, according to Weber.

"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."

And while there may not be more of them, those coyotes that are here will likely stay for the foreseeable future. The same can be said for wild animals in general.

"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."

### Food source

Coyotes are the region's top predator. Some species that are considered coyotes' natural prey hibernate through winter, and others -- field mice, for example -- 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 the coyotes.

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 probably fair game in the eyes of a coyote -- but dog and cat food will also attract omnivorous coyotes. Their natural diet consists of rodents (mice, rats, squirrels, chipmunks, shrews, voles, etc.) opossums, rabbits, insects, reptiles, fruits and vegetables. Like raccoons, coyotes will rummage through garbage cans seeking meals. They're also scavengers, which means they eat dead meat (i.e. road kill).

Weber also advises against brush piles and firewood stacked outdoors, especially on the ground.

"You're basically creating a spot for coyotes' food to stay," Weber said. "You're providing lodging for the animals that coyotes eat. It's like creating a grocery store for them."

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."

And as scavengers, they provide an ecological service by helping to keep our communities clean of carrion.

### Avoiding coyote encounters

The Urban Coyote Initiative offers the following tips to keep coyotes out of your yard: Pick up fruit from fallen trees, clean the barbeque grill, secure trash can lids, and cover compost piles. As a general safety rule, don't allow pets to roam free in your yard and always walk dogs on a leash.

According to experts, coyotes have a natural fear of humans. But those that are fed, intentionally or not, can become more accustomed to human contact.

"Coyotes will go after bigger prey this time of year because the smaller prey is scarce," Weber said. "But coyotes are smart. If they see a big dog, they'll go around it. Coyotes also prefer to stay away from humans. Children should be reminded to keep away from any animal running free, either coyote or dog."