



January 5, 2017

Meetings

This Just In...

Events / Things to Do

Business

Around Town

At Home

## Meetings

**Goals & Objectives Session - City Council** - Monday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

[Agendas and minutes are available by clicking here](#)

### City Council Update Jan. 3 meeting

**Design/Engineering of three streets** - A contract was awarded for \$40,100 to Beckett and Raedar, of Ann Arbor, to design and perform construction management on two streets: High Street (W. Main to W. Dunlap), improve asphalt road, curb and sidewalks; and Elmsmere (E. Chigwidden to Coldspring), improve concrete road and sidewalks; and design work only of E. Cady, enabling proposed new building construction on the south side of Cady to precede road replacement. The E. Cady design document will facilitate bids and allow DPW to establish the grade, which affects drainage.

**Earlier start for City Council meeting** - The Council voted to begin the meetings at 7 p.m., rather than 7:30 p.m., starting with the Jan. 17 meeting.

## **This Just In...**

### **Christmas trees recycling continues**

The recycling of Christmas trees has been extended until the end of January to help keep the trees out of the landfill - a positive environmental measure. Trees will be picked up at curbside until the end of the month.

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### **Dog Licenses must be renewed for 2017**

All dogs four months and older must be licensed per City ordinance. Renewal notices were mailed to registered owners of dogs with 2016 licenses in early January. The 2016 licenses expire on Feb. 28.

To renew a dog license or obtain a new one, you must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate. Licenses are available at the City Clerk's Office. To register by mail, [visit the City's website to download an application](#). The annual license fee is \$12 (\$9 with documented spay/neuter).

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### **City Hall's Facebook page is live**

Be a follower on our [facebook page](#). You will be able to see stories, photos and videos that will give you a heads-up on what's going on in the city. Plus, we want to hear from you. Share your photos and comments; ask questions.

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### **Village Workshop is the place where makers' dreams come true**

Makers, innovators and engineers can't wait to get their hands on the high-tech equipment at the Village Workshop in their quest to produce something of value - whether it's for their personal use, a prototype, a saleable product, or a tool that helps solve a problem.

Village Workshop is the brainchild of Brian Donovan, who enlisted Dennis Engerer and Chris McDonald - fellow entrepreneurs and Northville residents - to become partners on this project. The trio renovated a historic warehouse at 455 E. Cady Street in a smart blend of old and new. They installed \$1 million worth of equipment, including computer-aided mills, drills and saws; CNC plasma cutter; 3D laser printer; and a powder coating station.



The exterior of the renovated building located at 455 E. Cady St.

Open since March 2015, the Village Workshop draws artisans, entrepreneurs, engineers, homemakers, students and others to its intriguing, intelligent and inspirational work space.

"This space is a place to play, make a lot of noise, make some dust and create a really cool project," co-owner Donovan said. "One of our passions here is to help entrepreneurs and budding businesses grow."

Mike Wagner exemplifies what Village Workshop embodies. He was working at a company that recycles spent ammunition cartridges and the owner's process was to manually sort and clean the cartridges. Wagner saw value in automating the process. He came to Village Workshop to use the machinery and tooling to build a prototype. After trial and error, he developed a machine that worked. It is now used by his "former" employer and Wagner has also started a company that manufactures the machines for the ammunition reloading industry.

Village Workshop not only encourages entrepreneurship, the owners actively support it by offering courses on how to use the equipment and tools. Shop manager Andy Romes is a resource for the site's tools and technology. When someone hits a speed bump in their product design or development, the staff and members engage in problem solving.

On the day of my visit, makers tossed around ideas about how to improve processes at a snack bar over sandwiches and coffee (made on-site) while a cook sautéed onions and garlic in an oversize pan. The mouth-watering aroma of the fragrant vegetables wafted through the first floor, on par with a gourmet restaurant. (She was preparing ingredients for a caterer who rents the building's kitchen space.)



Cook Angie Neal sautéés onions and garlic in preparation for a catering event.

The workshop ignites all of the senses. Large windows let in pleasing natural lighting. The sounds of drills and saws from the industrial workshop on the first floor add an energetic buzz, while the soft whirring from industrial-grade sewing machines and a long-armed, \$20,000 embroidery machine emanate from the second floor.

This synergy of ideas and hands-on production is just what the owners of Village Workshop had in mind when they saw the old Belanger building at the east edge of town. They marveled at the open space of 24,000 ft<sup>2</sup> split among three floors. It was already industrial looking - with wood floors, brick interior walls, and metal railings on the stairwells - reflecting the times when Northville was a player in manufacturing. Being near downtown Northville, it was ideal for tapping into the collaborative mindset of the community.

The building has office space as well. The entire third floor (2,690 ft<sup>2</sup>) is available for lease, since the last tenant outgrew the space. For those who want a simple work station, access to machinery, free wi-fi and a chance to brainstorm with others, there are COWs for rent at \$250 a month. These steel-cased "cubicles on wheels" appeal to entrepreneurs and can be used as satellite offices for professionals who design or develop products. The COWs are portable and lock when not in use.

"The idea of people coming in here and working on their projects...whether for personal use, business, as an enhancement for their business was our goal from day one," said Engerer. They can make a sample of their product before making hundreds or thousands."

Just about any type of product can be made at the Village Workshop. A sampling of about 30 objects - including gears, clocks and laser-cut cases - are displayed on open shelves in the lobby space.



Caterer Mary Spencer, of "Taste, a cook's place," hosts presentation cooking classes where she shows guests her techniques while preparing their meals in a group setting - it's both a learning and dining experience. Other cooks host "pop-up" events there.

Tracey Wormsbacher runs day-to-day operations for the Village Workshop. She manages memberships, coordinates events on-site for nonprofits and business groups, and handles publicity and marketing.

Village Workshop is a membership-based business that can accommodate 1,000 members, who pay \$99 per month. It also offers classes to adults and students. Northville High School engineering students have a weekly, hands-on class there. Soon, there will be a maker's club for younger students.

Village Workshop is one of about 10 makers' spaces in southeast Michigan and one of an estimated 3,000 worldwide. "We're thrilled about the response from the immediate and surrounding communities," said Wormsbacher. "Our geographical pull is about 20 miles."

Wormsbacher would like to see the workshop's resources and outreach efforts spark the training of more skilled trades to fill gaps in job openings. "I know company owners who work in skilled trades and have so much work they have to turn it down," she said, "because they can't find people to hire as welders, lathe operators, and carpenters."



Operations Manager Tracey Wormsbacher and Shop Manager Andy Romes show a sampling of the items made at the Village Workshop.

## Events / Things to Do



**Jan. 6 - 28, 2017**

**Unsettled: The Printmaking of Robin Gibson**

**Northville Art House**

The Northville Art House is proud to present

***Unsettled: The Printmaking of Robin***

**Gibson**, featuring the lithographs, intaglios and relief prints by this artist, who is also associate

professor of Art at Penn State University.

Gibson states, "I am interested in images that 'suggest' rather than 'define'; a landscape view that remains anonymous, devoid of identifying details that might reveal any particular place or viewpoint."

Though specific places may be hidden and recognizable only by their title, such as *Acadia* and *Yosemite*, Gibson's multilayered prints, on closer look, reveal fluid lines, subtle coloring and rich texture to capture the natural world.

Gibson received her M.F.A. in Printmaking from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Her prints have been exhibited widely in solo, group and juried exhibitions and are in many corporate, museum and university collections, including the Achenbach Foundation, San Francisco Museum of Fine Arts; the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution; and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

***Unsettled: The Printmaking of Robin Gibson*** opens with a reception on Friday, Jan. 6, from 6 - 9 p.m. The exhibition runs through Jan. 28 during Art House hours, Tuesday-Friday 12-5 p.m. and Saturday 12-4 p.m. [Read more...](#)



**Jan. 6**

**First Friday Experience**

**Artwalk ~ Shopping ~ Dining**

**5 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Make a date to spend the evening in Downtown Northville - eat at one of our many [restaurants](#), stroll our picturesque streets, do a little [shopping](#), and learn about a new art style. It's a great way to spend a Friday night with family and friends.

The first Friday of every month, the merchants of Downtown Northville welcome you to visit their galleries and boutiques during extended hours. Many restaurants and business are open until at least 8 p.m. You'll see featured artists, trunk shows, demonstrations and specialty products. Enjoy the sounds of talented musicians at some of the venues.

Participating businesses include:

Bricks of Northville ~ Broughton Music ~ Browndog Creamery & Dessert Bar ~ Celebrity Pets Company ~ D & D Bicycle & Hockey ~ The Next Chapter Book Store & Bistro ~ Gardenviews ~ Joseph's Coney Island ~ Koji ~ Long's Plumbing & Bath Showroom ~ Lorla's ~ Massage Green ~ Northville Square ~ Orin Jewelers ~ Pear-aphernalia ~ Rebecca's Family Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor ~ Salon Tre Bella V ~ Simply Wine ~ Sincerely Yours ~ Studio 170 ~ The Bee's Knees ~ Tiramisu Italian Ristorante ~ Tuscan Café ~ Urban Optiques Vision & Eyewear ~ Van Dam's Boutique

[Walking maps](#) are available at each business to help you find your way around.

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**Thursday, Jan. 12**  
**Learn to Cross Country Ski**  
**Northville Public Library**  
**7 - 9 p.m.**

Friends of Maybury is hosting a free session on cross-country skiing. You'll learn where to buy or rent equipment, what clothing to wear on the trails, and where to pursue the sport. You'll also

learn techniques to keep you gliding along, keep you upright and out of snowpiles, and how to position your skis when going uphill and downhill.

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**Sunday, Jan. 15**  
**Student Open House**  
**Village Workshop**  
**455 E. Cady St.**  
**1 to 4 p.m.**

Explore, get inspired and learn how to make your big idea come to life at the Village Workshop. School-age kids are invited to attend a free open house featuring demonstrations, tours, food and prizes, including the chance to win a free one-month membership. For reservations, call 248-667-7157 or [click here](#).



**Wednesday, Jan. 18**  
**North American Auto Show**

Take a shuttle with other seniors to see the

world-class North American International Auto Show 2017, with more than 500 vehicles on display. Transportation fee is \$15 (pay in advance); admission to the show (pay at venue): \$7 (65+), \$13 (64 and younger). The bus departs from the parking lot across from the Northville post office at 9:30 a.m. and leaves the show at 2:30 p.m. Call the Senior Community or visit the Parks and Rec website to register (activity #W1723.01)

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**Saturday, Jan. 21**  
**Volunteers Needed - Annual Rouge Stonefly Search**

**Registration Deadline Jan. 6, 2017**

Friends of the Rouge is seeking volunteers to help look for stoneflies in the Rouge River.

Searchers will meet at the University of Michigan-Dearborn at 9 a.m. and carpool out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit. Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 6, 2017 by calling 313-792-9621 or clicking [FOTR website](#).

Winter stoneflies hatch from streams in winter and are sensitive to pollution, making them good indicators of water quality. Friends of the Rouge volunteers have been looking for stoneflies every winter since 2002. Last year, 92 volunteers participated and found stoneflies at 10 of 38 sites. As the Rouge River improves, it is expected these sensitive insects that provide food for fish should be found in more locations.

Volunteers should dress for the weather and be prepared to be out in the cold for several hours. Only trained team leaders go in the water; volunteers search through samples on the bank. Minors must be accompanied by a participating adult; groups of up to six people can be accommodated.

The Annual Winter Stonefly Search is conducted in partnership with Wayne County Department of Public Services and is funded by the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

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**Sunday, Jan. 29**  
**1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Weather-permitting, join Friends of Maybury at a group cross-country ski event (meet at the trailhead) and practice what you learned at the library session (see above). Bring your own skis; there are no ski rentals at Maybury. This is



a free event, but there is a cost to enter the park unless you have a recreation passport.

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**Wednesday, Feb. 8**  
**Grow Your Business with eMail & Social Media**

**Northville District Library**  
**7 p.m.**

This free workshop is designed to help you grow your business by using email and social media more effectively. Get simple but powerful tips on how to get your messages opened, read

and shared. Presented by Candy Jones-Guerin from Constant Contact. Register by [clicking here](#) (see Events calendar) or calling 248-349-3020.

## **Business**

### **Online payments for utility bills and taxes**

Online payments for taxes and utilities is available on the City's website offered through Point & Pay, for a convenience fee. To access this option, please [visit our website](#). On the left side of your screen, select either Property Tax and Assessing Lookup or Utility Bill Lookup. Search for your property and click on the "Pay online" button. You will then be re-directed to the Point & Pay website to make a payment.

Fees: Please note there is a convenience fee paid directly to Point & Pay if you choose to utilize this option:

Credit Cards: 3% Fee (minimum \$2)

E-Checks: Flat Fee of \$3, up to \$10,000 or Flat Fee of \$10.00, anything over \$10,000

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### **Accountability & Transparency**

To meet the requirements for Accountability & Transparency under City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing/County Incentive Program (CVTRS/CIP), the City of Northville must certify to the Michigan Department of Treasury that they have made readily available to the public:

1. A Citizen's Guide of its most recent local finances, including recognition of its unfunded liabilities
2. A Performance Dashboard
3. A Debt Service Report containing a detailed listing of its debt service

requirements, including, at a minimum, the issuance date, issuance amount, type of debt instrument, a listing of all revenues pledged to finance debt service by debt instrument, and a listing of the annual payment amounts until maturity

4. A Projected Budget Report of revenues and expenditures including, at a minimum, the current fiscal year and a projection for the immediately following year and an explanation of the assumptions used for the projections

The above documents may be found by visiting the [City's website](#).

## **Around Town**

### **Streetlights**

Streetlight out? Businesses and residents can [report streetlight outages online](#). This link goes directly to the DTE streetlight outage reporting tool.

Businesses and residents who have a DTE wooden power pole on or adjacent to their property are eligible to have outdoor protective lighting installed on the pole to illuminate their private property. Residents may even qualify for no up-front cost installation. Please call 866-503-0627 and leave a detailed message for a DTE representative to contact you within three business days.

## **At Home**

### **Brush collection program**

The City of Northville allows residents to place branches at the curb without bundling or bagging them. Branches 6 feet long and up to 6 inches in diameter can be placed at the curb for removal by the City's solid waste collection contractor.

Residents can dispose of large piles of branches by placing them at the curb. Every Tuesday, year-round, a crew will come through each neighborhood and chip any branches left at the curb.

Branches must be in the street right-of-way (Between the street and the sidewalk). Simply stack the branches neatly behind the curb with the cut ends facing the street.

We cannot take roots, stumps dirt, lumber, railroad ties or any wood with metal in it. Residents can dispose of firewood pieces and stumps with their normal weekly garbage (Maximum 35 gallon cans and 60 lb. weight limit).

Collection crews will not rake up small branches after the large brush piles are removed. Residents may have to rake these areas after bulk brush collection has been made.

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### **Sewage backups**

Most homeowner's insurance will not cover sewage backups, but insurance can often be obtained as an added item. Ask your insurance provider about this option. Also, consider having a plumber install a check valve - backflow preventer - to help minimize the risk of backups and related damage.

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the City of Northville within 45 days after the overflow or backup is discovered. Notice should be mailed to the City of Northville, Attn: City Clerk, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167. Claim forms may be obtained by calling the City of Northville Department of Public Works at 248-449-9930.

When presenting a written claim, you will be required to provide the following items:

1. Copies of receipts for cleaning costs, plumbing bills, or other bills.
2. List of the damaged items and receipts to prove the ages of your items. Reimbursement for the Actual Cash Value of damaged items is the maximum amount payable.
3. Please make an attempt to provide pictures of anything you wish to claim that was damaged due to the sewer backup.

The filing of a claim does not guarantee reimbursement.

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If you have comments or requests for specific news items, please e-mail Liz Cezat, Communications Manager, at [lcezat@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:lcezat@ci.northville.mi.us).

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