



# Northville

## City News

*A weekly eNewsletter for the community*



January 12, 2017

Meetings

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**City offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

Christmas trees placed at the curb for the remainder of January will be taken to the landfill.

Trash collection will occur as usual on Monday; it will not be affected by the holiday.

## Meetings

**(Note date and new start time) City Council** - Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Planning Commission** - Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. - Meeting Room - City Hall

**Downtown Development Authority** - Tuesday, Jan. 17, 8 a.m. - Meeting Room - City Hall

**Historic District Commission** - Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Senior Advisory Commission - Thursday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m. - Community Center**

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

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

**Contractors save time by scheduling online inspections while house hunters can view permit history online**



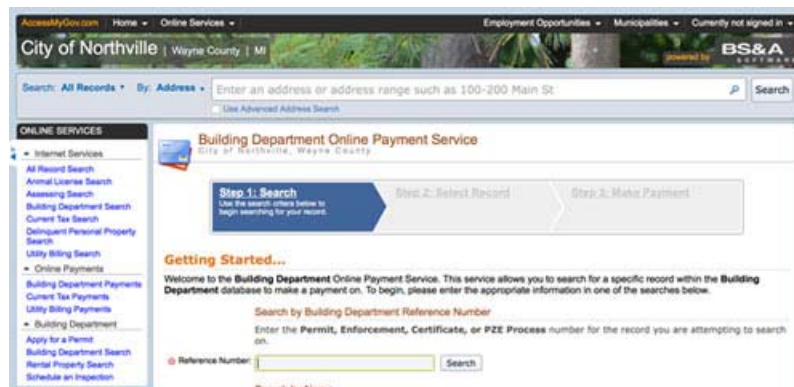
Building Department Director Brent Strong inspects a new home under construction.

Saving time and having key information at your fingertips are just two of the many reasons that contractors are eager to set up an account on the Access My Government (AMG) website ([www.accessmygov.com](http://www.accessmygov.com)). It is especially handy for those who work as electricians, mechanical contractors (install heating and cooling systems), and plumbers - trades that do regular residential and/or commercial work in the City of Northville. Builders also use the system and often have the "trades" who work for them obtain permits.

Contractors can schedule inspections from their smart phone (by 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday) and be notified of permit results within one hour of inspection. Approved permits can be printed by the contractor and posted to the building site. They no longer need to go to City Hall to get a permit or wait for it in the mail. However, contractors must first register in person at City Hall to begin doing business in the City. After that step, they can set up an account on [AccessMyGov.com](http://AccessMyGov.com) for inspections and permits.

Payment for the permit can be made by credit card on the AMG's website through Point and Pay, a payment-processing company. For credit card use, there is a 3% fee, with a minimum of \$2; for e-checks, it's a \$3 fee for payments up to \$10,000 and \$10 for payments of \$10,000 and over. The other option is to

mail in a check or pay by cash or check at City Hall. Credit card payments cannot be done by phone for any City business transaction.



[Accessmygov.com](http://Accessmygov.com), a software program now linked to the City of Northville's website, can be used to schedule an inspection or pay for a permit, among other administrative tasks.

Prior to the launch of the online scheduling system in August 2016, the City handled permit requests and set up inspections by phone, in person or by mail.

In 2016, the City processed permits for more than 100 building contractors and 97 of the skilled trades mentioned. In total, 541 permits were issued, about 100 less than in 2015, which was a banner year for building and renovations with 637 permits issued.

On the monthly basis, there are 45 to 50 permit requests - with accompanying inspections. Having contractors perform these services online, at no additional cost to them, saves manpower in the City's Clerk's office and the Building Department's office. Since the City began using the website five months ago, contractors have logged in to obtain seven permits and schedule 36 inspections, and that number is expected to grow quickly, according to Building Department Director Brent Strong.

The City plans to transition contractors to use the website exclusively for permits and inspection scheduling by March 1, 2017.

"The peak times for permits are May through August," noted Shari Allen. "We used to print an audit copy and field copy of the permit application for inspectors, but now we only print one copy, which stays at City Hall."

"For companies that want statistics on their permits and inspections, getting it off the AMG website is easy to do," said Strong. "Builders still need to come to City Hall for plan approval since they must show their architectural drawings."

**From a homeowner's perspective**, the system offers a free look at their own home's data, from past owners and purchase prices to whether permits were pulled for installations and renovations. House buyers and others can go online

to see if a specific house requested a permit by going to the "Look up" screen on home page. This shortcut saves them the cost of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) fee and a five-day waiting period to obtain information.

If you have questions about using the AMG website, please contact Shari during business hours at 248.449.9902.

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### **Do you resolve to pay your tax bills online in 2017?**

Are you ready to throw away your envelopes and not lick another stamp? The City of Northville offers a fast, secure and reliable online payment portal for property taxes.

Go to the City's homepage and view Quick Links on the left. Select Property Tax and Assessing Lookup. Search for your property and click on the "Pay Online" button. You will then be re-directed to AccessMyGov website, which shows a photo of your property and has a tab where you can make a payment.

Please note there is a convenience fee paid directly to Point & Pay if you use this option. For credit cards, there is a 3% fee (minimum \$2). If you decide to have funds withdrawn from your checking or savings account (ACH transfer), you can designate the date of the withdrawal and amount. Fees for this service are \$3, up to \$10,000 and \$10 for anything over \$10,000.

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### **Dog Licenses need to be current for 2017**

City Ordinance requires all dogs four months and older to be licensed. The annual license fee is \$12 (\$9 with documented spay/neuter).

You must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate at the time of application. Licenses are available at the City Clerk's Office. To register by mail, download an application from the [City's website](#).

Dog licenses for 2016 expire Feb. 28, 2017. Courtesy renewal notices for dogs licensed in 2016 were mailed to registered owners earlier this month.

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

[Be a follower on our facebook page](#). You will see stories, photos and videos about what's going on at City Hall and the City of Northville. We also want to hear from you. Share your photos and comments; ask questions. [See our social media policy here](#).



## Events / Things to Do



Through Jan. 28

### ***Unsettled: The Printmaking of Robin Gibson***

#### **Northville Art House**

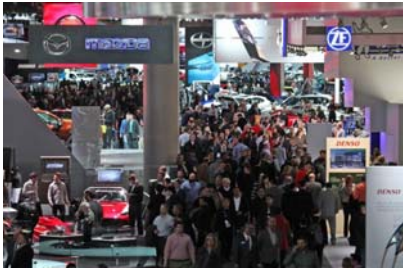
The Northville Art House is proud to present ***Unsettled: The Printmaking of Robin Gibson***, featuring lithographs, intaglios and relief prints by Associate Professor of Art at Penn State University, Robin Gibson.

Penn State University, Robin Gibson.

Gibson's prints have been exhibited widely in solo, group and juried exhibitions and are in numerous 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*** runs through Jan. 28 during Art House hours: Tuesday-Friday, 12-5 p.m. and Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18 [Read more...](#)

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Wednesday, Jan. 18

### **North American Auto Show - (Senior citizens only)**

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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Sunday, Jan. 23

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

### **Maybury State Park**

#### **Friends of Maybury cross-country skiing**

If there is snow, you can cross-country ski at Maybury (meet at the trailhead) and practice what you learned at the Friends of Maybury

library session. Bring your own skis; there are no ski rentals at Maybury. This is a free event. You need a recreation passport to enter the park. Dress in layers to stay warm during this outing.

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**Thursday, Jan. 26**

**9:45 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Senior citizens only)**

**Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)**

**Bitter/Sweet: Coffee, Tea & Chocolate**

**\$13 - bus transportation**

Coffee, tea and chocolate were fashionable beverages in 18th century Europe, yet the natural ingredients had to be imported. Coffee arrived from Africa and the Middle East; tea from Asia; and chocolate from the Americas. This exhibit retraces the story of how these "hot new drinks" transformed drinking habits, social customs and tastes, and created a new market for coffee pots, tea canisters and chocolate pots. The works assembled range from rare examples of porcelain and metalwork to paintings, prints and sculptures. The exhibit is complemented by multi-sensory interpretive elements - the museum's first-ever exhibit to do so.



The trip cost includes transportation, DIA visit and dessert reception. It does not include lunch, which is available at the DIA Café. The bus departs from the parking lot across from the Northville Post Office at 9:45 a.m. Registration deadline is Jan. 12 - No refunds. If registering online on the Parks and Rec. website, specify activity # W1719.01.

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**Now through Feb. 28**

**Maybury State Park or other outdoor nature setting**

**HeartMISnow Virtual 5K to benefit Michigan state parks**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has partnered with Epic Races to offer the inaugural HeartMISnow Virtual 5K. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Michigan state parks. Participants choose where and when to complete their own 5K, as long as it's done outdoors. Participants receive a commemorative HeartMISnow finisher's medal and an event T-shirt.

[Register for this event by Feb. 28 at RunSignUp.](#)

You will be asked to select a state park, forest, trail or public land managed by

the DNR or a local trail or park to perform the 5K. You can run, walk, hike, snowshoe or cross-country ski to meet the qualifications. Complete your HeartMiSnow Virtual 5K anytime between now and Feb. 28. [Visit the HeartMiSnow Facebook](#) event page and "join" the event. Upload a photo of your GPS tracker showing your mileage and time, share a selfie or post a comment about it. A finisher's medal and T-shirt will be mailed in March.

Share your experience on the [2017 HeartMiSnow Virtual 5K Facebook page](#) or get on Twitter or Instagram (@epicraces) using the hashtag #HeartMiSnow.

A [Recreation Passport](#) is needed for any vehicle entering a Michigan state park or recreation area. For more information, contact Epic Races at [info@epicraces.com](mailto:info@epicraces.com) or 734-585-7101.

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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 online at our Events Calendar on the Library's website](#) or call 248.349.3020.

## **Business**

### **Tree permits required**

A permit from the Building Department may be required prior to cutting down any tree in the City of Northville. Before cutting down any tree, you must first make application to the Building Department to determine if a permit is required. The City will enforce this ordinance if trees are cut down without the required permit. To avoid enforcement action, please contact the City of Northville Building Department at 248 449-9902. [Tree cutting is regulated by Section 90 of the City of Northville Code.](#)

## **Around Town**

### **Parking**

Did you know it is illegal to park on City Streets between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. without a permit?

If you are having visitors or work done on your driveway and must park in the street overnight, call Community Dispatch at 248-349-1234 by 2 a.m. with the license plate number and street location of the vehicle to avoid a parking ticket.

## **At Home**

### **An easy way to dispose of old medications**

Do you have outdated prescription or over-the-counter medications that you want to get rid of? Don't flush these medications down the toilet - it pollutes the water supply; don't throw them away because they will end up in a landfill and may be consumed by wildlife. There is a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted medications. Bring your unwanted medication - no liquids, needles or injectable medication - to the secure drop box in the lobby at the Northville Township Police Department at 41600 Six Mile Road. There is no paperwork required and the bin can be accessed 24/7. When the drop box is full, collections are picked up for disposal by the Drug Enforcement Authority.

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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.

Sewer backup legislation clarifies when municipalities are liable for sewer backups, sets standards to determine the extent to which a municipality is liable for sewer backups, and establishes a process to seek compensation when a backup occurs.

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system that you believe was caused by a defect or neglect by the City, you must file a written claim 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 248-449-9930. The filing of a claim does not guarantee reimbursement.

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### ***Add your name to the mailing list***

New subscribers to City News can sign up below (if you are viewing the e-mail version). You can also [sign up on the City of Northville website](#) (homepage, left hand column under Quick Links)

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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City of Northville, Michigan | 248-349-1300 | [Website](#)

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