



January 26, 2017

Meetings

This Just In...

Events / Things to Do

Business

Around Town

At Home

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

Meetings

No meetings scheduled

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

This Just In...

Help keep storm sewers clear and keep pollutants out of waterways



With recent heavy rains in January, Northville experienced a higher than normal water flow into storm sewers. Storm sewers are grated openings along curbs, in streets and parking lots that lead to 12" diameter pipes where rainwater and snowmelt drain. The water is channeled through a system of pipes that carry it to the Randolph drain, the Johnson Creek drain, and the Middle Rouge River. From there, it goes into the Detroit River.

It's drawn back out of the Detroit River, filtered through the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and sent back to Northville for drinking, cooking, personal use and residential watering.

You may think there's not much you can do to control what gets into the storm drains. Surprisingly, there are simple procedures to follow to help keep the storm drains free of toxic fluids and sediment, which is the greatest pollutant by volume of our lakes and streams. Never dispense of chemicals, pet waste, fertilizer or other toxins into a storm sewer. Nearly everything that goes into a storm sewer ends up in our waterways.

Soil erosion causes sediment to seep into storm sewers. The trend toward bigger houses is a culprit in soil erosion. Houses of 4,000 ft² or more take up more land, which results in fewer trees and shrubs that help retain soil. During construction, there's a lot of runoff into the storm sewer from displaced soil. Because of this, a permit is required to make sure the builder follows guidelines to prevent severe soil erosion.

One of those guidelines is to temporarily put a screened cover over the storm sewer so the sediment can be swept off the cover, allowing only water to drain. After the house is built and the soil has settled with a new lawn and landscaping, it's the permit holder's responsibility to remove the screen from the storm sewer.

If you have any questions about storm sewers or permits, please contact the DPW office at 248.449.9930.

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

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.

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).

City Hall's Facebook page is live

[Be a follower on our facebook page](#). You will be able to see stories, photos and videos of the City's people, places and events. We'll fill you in on City services, such as trash pick up, payment of taxes and utility bills, and roads under construction. Plus, we want to hear from you. Share your photos and comments; ask questions. If you like our page, new posts will show up in your news feed.



Meet City employee Leon Butts who works at the front desk. She handles payments from the public and assists the public works director. She also answers the phone and directs visitors to various departments within the building.

Events / Things to Do



Through Jan. 28

Unsettled: The Printmaking of Robin Gibson

Northville Art House

Thursday and Friday 12-5 p.m., Saturday 12-4 p.m.

The exhibit features lithographs, intaglios and relief prints by Associate Professor of Art at Penn State University, Robin Gibson.

Ms. 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. [Read more...](#)



**Friends of Maybury
Cross-county ski event**

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 from the library sessions the group held earlier this month. Bring your own skis; there are no ski rentals at Maybury. This is a free event, but you must have a recreation passport to enter the park.



**Volunteers Needed for 20th Annual
Rouge Frog and Toad Survey**
**Workshop dates - Saturdays, from 10
a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Feb. 4
Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile
Road, Livonia, MI 48154

Feb. 18
Canton Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, MI 48188

Feb. 25
Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington
Hills, MI 48336

Spring is only two months away, the time when frogs and toads begin their chorus of calls. This spring, consider learning why frogs and toads are making those sounds and which ones you might have in your area. Friends of the Rouge is looking for people interested in participating in the annual Rouge Frog and Toad Survey. The survey is a simple presence/absence survey. Volunteers visit wetlands at night and identify what types of frogs and toads are calling.

Interested volunteers need to sign up for one of three training sessions (listed above). All materials are provided at the workshop. Volunteers are assigned survey blocks and required to visit them several times a month from March through June on damp, warm nights.

This will be the 20th year of the survey. The presence of frogs and toads is used as an indicator of wetland health. Diverse, healthy wetlands support diverse assemblages of amphibians. To learn more about the findings from the survey, [visit the FOTR website](#). [Read more...](#)



Feb. 3
First Friday Experience
Artwalk ~ Shopping ~ Dining

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The first Friday of every month the merchants of Downtown Northville welcome you to browse their galleries and boutiques. You'll be greeted with featured artists, trunk shows, demonstrations and specialty products.

Make a date to spend the evening in Downtown Northville - enjoy a quick meal or dine in style 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 Experience is not just for gallery lovers; it's a great way to relax on a Friday evening. In addition to our galleries, we have many restaurants and business that support the First Friday Experience and are open until at least 8 p.m. You will find special events such as artists and musicians on hand at some and others simply invite you to come in and eat or shop. These 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 ~ Loria'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 ~ Tirami Su Italian Ristorante ~ Tuscan Café ~ Urban Optiques Vision & Eyewear ~ Van Dam's Boutique

[Walking maps](#) are available at each business.



Feb. 3 - March 25

The 11th Annual Northville Art House Member Exhibition

Tuesday-Friday 12 - 5 p.m. and Saturday 12 - 4 p.m.

Admission: Free

Plan to attend the opening reception on Friday, Feb. 3, from 6 - 9 p.m. (It coincides with the First Friday Experience in Downtown Northville.) The exhibit features original works in all mediums, including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, jewelry, clay, and mixed media. The talent of more than 60 member artists of the Northville Art House are showcased in the exhibit, which also recognizes those who support the growth and creativity of the arts in the community.

Consider becoming a member to participate in Northville Art House member exhibitions and events and receive other exciting benefits. [Applications are available online](#) by calling 248-344-0497, or at the Northville Art House, 215 West Cady Street, Northville, Michigan 48167. Memberships start at \$30.



Wed., 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.

Native Plants with Drew Lathin: Three Part Series at Northville District Library. All programs begin at 7 p.m.

Monday, April 5

The Beauty of Native Plants: Their Function in Supporting Wildlife in Urban and Suburban Landscapes

Monday, April 17

Designing Landscapes with Native Plants

Tuesday, April 25

Rain Gardens

[Register online](#) or call 248.349.3020.

Business

Scheduling online inspections

Contractors and homeowners in the City of Northville may [schedule inspections using the new online inspection portal](#). The portal allows users to request all types of inspections, such as building, electrical, plumbing and heating. Users must have their assigned permit number when using the Inspection portal. If you are requesting an inspection for the following business day, it must be scheduled by 3:30 p.m.

Paperless billing option for utilities

Utility bill customers may now sign up to receive email bills or arrange for automatic payment through the City's website. E-bills are emailed on the billing date with a full page bill attached in pdf format. Automatic payment is an arrangement between the customer's bank and our bank by which the amount due is deducted from the customer's account each due date. You can [sign up here](#) or call 248-449-9901 with questions.

Around Town**What to do if a water main breaks**

Each year the City has between 10 and 20 water main breaks, and most of these happen when the temperatures are below freezing. If residents see water bubbling out of the ground, contact the Public Works Department at 248-449-9930 or 248-349-1234 after hours and report its location. The sooner the leak is identified and reported, the quicker it can be repaired, reducing the chances of contamination entering the water system, and minimizing the cost for lost water.

At Home**Free home fire safety review**

The Northville City Fire Department, which serves the Cities of Northville and Plymouth, offers free home fire safety reviews. Call 248-449-9920 to schedule an appointment. A team of Fire Department personnel will meet with you at your home and review items such as smoke detectors, electrical outlets, storage of flammable materials, home escape plans and other items that can have an impact on home fire safety.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that in 2014, structure fires caused 2,860 deaths, 13,425 injuries and \$9.8 billion in property damage. Home fire safety reviews can help reduce the risk of fire and its consequences.

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.

Add your name to the City News 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.

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

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