



February 2, 2017

Meetings

This Just In...

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Around Town

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Meetings

City Council - Monday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

CANCELED - Planning Commission - Tuesday, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

Housing Commission - Wed., Feb. 8, 6 p.m. - Allen Terrace
Arts Commission - Wed., Feb. 8, 7 p.m. - Art House

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

This Just In...

Road reconstruction to begin in Spring

As part of the City's ongoing road improvement program, two main residential streets will be repaired in 2017 with new curbs and sidewalks and a third street in

the business district will be designed with specifications for eventual construction.

On High Street (W. Main to W. Dunlap), the asphalt road will be repaved and new curbs and sidewalks will be installed. On Elmsmere (E. Chigwidden to Coldspring), the concrete road and sidewalks will be redone with either concrete or asphalt, based on the designers' recommendations.

On E. Cady, the street will be designed, but not developed until after new building construction (currently in the planning stages) is erected and completed on the south side of the street.

A design contract for \$40,100 was awarded to Beckett and Raedar, of Ann Arbor, to design and oversee construction management on these three streets. After the design is completed, requests for bid will be sought for road construction, with the award going to the lowest priced, qualified bidder. Road construction on two of the three projects is slated to begin in spring and be completed by the end of summer.

2017 Dog Licenses must be renewed by Feb. 28

All dogs four months and older must be licensed per City ordinance. 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).

Get a jump on spring planting...think native plants and trees



Winter is a good time for gardeners to think about spring plantings. This is the season when retailers mail seed catalogues and send e-mail links to their online offerings so people can plan their vegetable and flower gardens, as well as landscaping.

Try to incorporate native plants, such as white pine trees, crab apple trees (they flower in the spring), purple coneflowers, tall grasses, choke cherry and junipers. If the planting is known to do well in Michigan's environment, given the climate and soil conditions, it doesn't need much water and is better able to resist disease.

Soil erosion can also be held in check by landscaping features - using the right combination of bushes, shrubs, ferns, trees and lawn. Adding fresh mulch in gardens and under trees also helps retain water and prevents loss of soil.

Rain gardens are designed to redirect excess water back onto the landscape or into the ground, rather than flowing into streets and storm sewers. While rain gardens are more prevalent in commercial landscaping, homeowners can also

benefit from them in water-logged areas of their landscaping and lawns.

These tips just scratch the surface of gardening using environmentally friendly methods. The Northville District Library is hosting a gardening lecture series in April. (Read about it in this issue.) Research your options now because spring will be here before you know it.

Visit these websites to learn about Michigan's native plants and trees.

[The Native Plant Nursery LLC](#)

[Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#)

Events / Things to Do



**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. Many stores stay open late and feature refreshments, new merchandise, sales and visits from local artists.

Galleries have special showings or exhibits.

Dancing Eye Gallery

101 N. Center
(248) 449-7086
[Website](#)

Northville Art House (See related article in this issue.)
215 W. Cady
(248) 344-0497
[Website](#)

Northville Gallery
123 E. Main
(248) 465-9630

Starring "The Gallery"
118 W. Main
(248) 347-1642
[Website](#)

Tiffany Art Glass
121 E. Main (2nd floor)
(248) 349-2777
[Website](#)

Learn about a new art style, do a little [shopping](#), and enjoy food and drinks at our many [restaurants](#), with cuisine ranging from sushi to Italian. Stroll our picturesque streets and spend quality time with your family and friends as you meet some of Northville's fine and friendly merchants.

Stop in at one of these fine establishments:

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 ~ Lace Museum of Detroit ~ 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 ~ Tiramì Su Italian Ristorante ~ Tuscan Café ~ Urban Optiques Vision & Eyewear ~ Van Dam's Boutique

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



**Friday, Feb. 3 - opening reception
6 to 9 p.m.**

**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, which 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 is showcased with recognition to those who support the growth and creativity of the arts in the community. The exhibit runs through March 25.

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.

Skywarn Severe Weather Spotter Training

Register now!

Skywarn is an effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies by expanding networks of spotters and getting more people involved in tornado warning programs. Not all tornadoes show up on radar, but they can be seen. Only one instrument can detect a tornado or funnel with complete certainty: the human eye.

Skywarn training sessions are held to train individuals how to accurately observe weather phenomena such as floods, hail, wind and its associated damage, cloud features that lead to tornadoes and those that do not. The class covers what information to report and how to report it. Basic severe weather safety is also covered. Classes are FREE and last 1.5 hours. While new technological and scientific tools have advanced the National Weather Service (NWS) capability to predict severe weather, the trained spotter remains essential to the NWS warning process. The more trained "eyes" the NWS has in the field, the better they can serve the public during a severe weather event.

SPOTTER TRAINING CLASSES

Wed., March 1 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Oakland County Homeland Security Division Executive Office Bldg. 41W, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford, 48328
Sat., March 18 10 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	Oakland County Homeland Security Division Executive Office Bldg. 41W, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford, 48328
Sat., March 18 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Oakland County Homeland Security Division Executive Office Bldg. 41W, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford, 48328
Tues., March 21 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	The Charter Township of Commerce Township 2009 Township Drive, Commerce Township, 48390
Thurs., April 6 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Karl Richter Campus Community Center 300 East Street, Holly, 48442
Mon., April 10 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Orion Center 1335 Joslyn Rd, Lake Orion, 48360
Wed., April 12 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Southfield Public Library 26300 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, 48076

All interested parties (e.g. fire, police, EMS, security, volunteers and citizens) are encouraged to attend this program, coordinated by The Oakland County Homeland Security Division.

Limited space is available, [reserve online](#) or call 248-858-5300

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

Native Plants with Drew Lathin: Three Part Series at Northville District Library. Register online or call 248.349.3020. All programs begin at 7 p.m.

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 [click here](#). 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. Please note there is a convenience fee paid directly to Point & Pay if you choose to utilize this option.

Alternatively, 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 online](#) or call 248-449-9901 with questions.

Scheduling online inspections

Contractors and homeowners in the City of Northville are being asked to use the new [online portal](#) exclusively to schedule inspections. 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 portal. If you are requesting an inspection for the following business day, it must be scheduled by 3:30 p.m.

Around Town

Streetlights keep our streets illuminated - please report outages

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 message with your contact information; a DTE representative will contact you within three business days.

At Home

Brush collection program

Residents can place branches at the curb without bundling or bagging them. Branches 6 feet long and up to 6 inches in diameter should be placed at the curb with the cut ends facing the street. Every Tuesday, year-round, a crew contracted by the City will drive through the neighborhoods to collect and chip the branches left in the street right-of-way (between the street and the sidewalk).

Residents may need to rake up any small branches left behind after the brush collection. Brush collection does not include 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).

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.

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.

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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