



June 15, 2017

Meetings

This Just In...

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Business

Around Town

At Home

Meetings

City Council - Monday, June 19, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

Liquor License Review Committee - Monday, June 19, 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

Planning Commission - Tuesday, June 20, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

Downtown Development Authority - Tuesday, June 20, 8 a.m. - Meeting Room - City Hall

Historic District Commission - Wednesday, June 21, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers

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

This Just In...

What will downtown Northville look like in the next five, 10 years?



Photo by Liz Cezat

Entering the City of Northville along Sheldon Road, south of Seven Mile.

The economic opportunities and residential prospects for Northville in the next decade look promising. While no one holds a crystal ball, a strategic planning study commissioned by the Northville Downtown Development Authority (DDA), with partial funding from the City of Northville, is leading to a strategic plan that will guide development of new businesses, housing and other physical enhancements.

Beckett and Raeder, Inc., a planning and engineering firm based in Ann Arbor, conducted in-depth research among residents, business owners and visitors for data used in the planning decisions. The company apprised the City of its findings and offered recommendations for business development, residential structures, community gathering spaces, parking and signage.

Joint planning meetings involved the DDA, the Northville City Council, the Planning Commission and the Historic District Commission. A Strategic Plan Steering Committee, consisting of residents and downtown business owners, provided feedback and their own ideas about the plan. These groups are expected to approve a final strategic plan this summer.

The plan proposes to transform parcels of vacant or underused land just south of downtown Northville into new professional offices, technical space and residential housing above restaurants and retail space. In City planning parlance, it's called "mixed use."

The plan envisions a residential neighborhood built closer to Seven Mile and Sheldon Road, which serves as a gateway to the City from the south. Currently, when coming into town on the downward slope of Sheldon Road, you see an expansive horizon of the city with Northville Downs and its vast parking lot to the east, and a broad parking lot to the west, which serves as the space for the Farmers' Market in season. This current landscape could be infused with new vitality as places to live, work and play arise in a setting that engages and connects.

As you drive along the road, which becomes Center Street north of 7 Mile Road, currently there are houses on the west side and many homes converted into businesses on the east side. At Cady, one block south of Main Street, there are stately brick buildings on either side of the street. This section is the original mixed-use concept with 75 apartments and first floor businesses at the four-story Main Centre on the west side and all businesses at the three-story Cady Centre on the east.

As a building resurgence takes place in southeastern Michigan, the City of Northville is in the right place at the right time. It's already a desirable place to live with its scenic neighborhoods, quaint downtown, walkable streets, top-quality school system and low crime rate.

Geographically, it's equidistant between the college town of Ann Arbor and downtown Detroit, which is undergoing a renaissance. Detroit has an international crossing, which brings Canadians to the area as well. Northville's setting is a sweet spot indeed, not only for its unique characteristics but also because it is a destination for shopping, dining and events in southeastern Michigan.

The Northville DDA updates its strategic plan every 10 years. The last plan saw the development of the City's downtown with an upgraded Town Square, an expansive brick crosswalk, new paving of roads and sidewalks, construction of the Comerica Community Connection and branded way-finding signage, among other improvements.

"The focus of the strategic plan is on redevelopment and how to bring in more visitors on a daily basis," said Lori Ward, Northville DDA director. "It provides a vision for under-developed areas."

As part of the planning process that began in April 2016, Beckett & Raeder conducted surveys online and on the downtown streets of Northville, and interviewed business owners and community leaders.

"People said they want to see more housing opportunities and have more foot traffic downtown. I believe that this plan addresses those interests," said Ward.

On June 6, Beckett and Raeder made a presentation on the strategic plan to the project Steering Committee. The plan will be posted online for public review and comment. Copies of the 123-page report, complete with maps and renderings, will be available at City Hall. The plan will be presented to City Council on the June 19

meeting for public comment and discussion.

Northville Downs is the largest parcel of property at 48 acres, which is ripe for redevelopment. While there's no "for sale" sign on it, the group of owners has indicated it's interested in offers. Meanwhile, the horse racing business is doing fine and draws big crowds in season.



Photo by Liz Cezat

At Center and Fairbrook, looking southeast to Seven Mile Rd. The racetrack is on the left and the parking lot used for the Farmers' Market is on the right.

At Center and Fairbrook, looking southeast to Seven Mile Rd. The racetrack is on the left and the parking lot used for the Farmers' Market is on the right.
Photo by Liz Cezat

The strategic plan seeks to create greater connectivity to neighborhoods, stores and services, potentially by improving the streetscape from Hutton Street to the Chamber of Commerce building on East Main Street; along North and South Center Street; and along Cady. There also is a need for a better connection from downtown to Ford Field for recreation, activities and gatherings.

Focal points are key to community vitality. Northville Town Square, the existing outdoor plaza with a fountain and concert stage is one major draw. Another could be a day-lighted Middle Rouge River at Beal Street along the east side of the Northville Downs property. Opening up the river would provide a scenic element that draws people to it. Plus, a flowing river with banks of vegetation would soften the addition of brick and cement to that section of the city.



Photo by Liz Cezat

You can see Cady Street to the north (red brick building) from Center and Fairbrook, across from the Northville Downs property.



Photo by Liz Cezat

Providing parks and greenspace to relax and refresh are important to residents and visitors to Northville. Suzanne Braverman, of Northville, walks her dog Clementine along the Hines Park pathway. The strategic plans calls

for additional greenspace.

The vibe of a city is more than buildings and architecture. It's about the look and feel of the gathering spaces and city streets; the personalities and friendliness of the people who live, work and play in the city; and it's about the type of events that bring together a variety of people and organizations. Northville already scores high on many of these elements.

The strategic plan incorporates the best bones of a city: an ecosystem that is diverse in form and content, and one that has green space to balance the brick. Areas of high density and low density - sound and silence - are in balance. The vision is to bring even more vibrancy to the city so that visitors return often and more people set down roots - staying for a few years, a decade or a lifetime.

Does your business or municipal building have a unique, inviting look?



Photo by Liz Cezat (taken in June 2017)

The 2016 "Best in Town" Beautification Award went to Angela Carson Photography.

The City of Northville Beautification Commission (BC) is preparing to judge local businesses and municipal buildings on their ability to make the exterior of their facility "star quality" when it comes to greenery and flowers as well as decorative

elements that make a statement - for those without greenspace.

"Improving the exterior of a business or municipal building greatly enhances the area around it," said Diane Pittaway, chairperson of the City of Northville Beautification Commission. "People who walk around town or drive through it take notice of the colorful summer blooms and landscape features. The Beautification Commission recognizes those who make the added effort to beautify their businesses and enhance the overall look of the City."

This is the 35th year of the awards, and the group's 50th anniversary. "We encourage all businesses and municipal facilities to join the city in making their landscape or storefront part of this collective community effort to beautify Northville," said Pittaway.

Members of the commission begin judging on July 1, and score points in four categories: 1) general appearance/curb appeal; 2) design; 3) environment and 4) special features. Each of these categories has five or more elements that judges evaluate. For example, in the design category, judges score high for exteriors that have a focal point; color balance and contrast; texture/movement; sun/shade exposure and other artistic features appropriate to the space.

Owners and operators often won't know their property is being evaluated, since the commission doesn't inform them as they review the exterior setting. Business owners and municipal administrators enjoy this annual event and are proud to receive one of the coveted awards. Winners, announced after Aug. 1, receive an award lawn sign, a certificate suitable for framing and an invitation to be recognized at the Fall Rotary luncheon.

For a checklist of what the commission values highly, please [visit the website page](#).

Water payment assistance is offered through WRAP

The Great Lakes Water Authority's (GLWA) WRAP (Water Residential Assistance Program) supported more than 4,100 households in 60 participating communities during its first year. Northville is one of those communities. WRAP provides bill payment and arrearage assistance, home water audits and minor plumbing repairs to qualified households in the communities it serves. To learn more about WRAP: its benefits, qualifications and household eligibility requirements, please visit GLWA's website page: [WRAP materials](#).

Events / Things to Do



**Every Thursday through October
Farmers' Market**

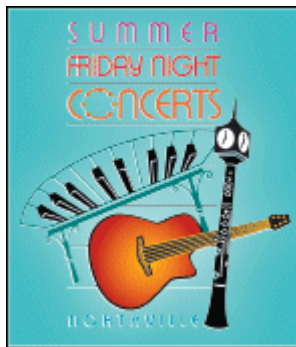
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Shop for fresh, locally sourced produce and top-quality cheese, fish, jam, baked goods and other edibles from farmers and merchants. There are more than 70 stalls of Michigan-made and Michigan-grown products. In addition, fine juried crafters and vendors sell garden art, soaps, jewelry, furniture, woodworking and home accessories.

Gardeners can shop for plants and flowers to get their gardens growing. Master gardeners are available to answer gardening questions until noon.

The Farmers' Market is held at the northwest corner of 7 Mile and Sheldon Rd, with on-site parking and additional parking at Northville Downs, across from the market.

For more information, please contact the Northville Chamber of Commerce at 248-349-7640 or visit www.northville.org.



Fridays June 16 and 23
Friday Night Concert Series
Town Square (Located on Main Street across from the Marquis Theatre)
7 - 9 p.m.

The Northville Summer Friday Night Concert Series brings the music of some of the finest local musicians to downtown Northville's outdoor stage in Town Square every Friday night. Enjoy jazz, blues, rock 'n roll, Motown and more. [Click here for a schedule of performances.](#)



Through June 30:
Confluence: Mixed Media Fiber Art by Jennifer Gould & Boisali Biswas
Northville Art House Exhibit

Be a pART of it! The Northville Art House is proud to present Confluence: Mixed Media Fiber Art by Jennifer Gould & Boisali Biswas. Confluence merges the talented world of two

Michigan artists who weave their own observations, themes and conceptions into extraordinary fiber art using both traditional and contemporary materials and techniques.

Jennifer Gould studies, experiments and is fascinated with textiles in all their varied forms. Influenced by nature, abstract and non-objective shapes, and wild colors, her pieces involve a wide diversity of techniques combined with unusual fabrics. Gould creates unique wall-hung and freestanding textiles as well as textile figures to express her place in the world.

Boisali Biswas comes from India, a country with a rich heritage of art and culture. She has a deep-rooted attachment to the traditional art forms of her native country and owes a part of her stylization to India's captivating traditional patterns and the rich array of colors. Biswas combines Western styles and techniques with ethnic arts from around the world to create a multicultural 'canvas' of fiber assemblages, art quilts, and wallpaper weavings.

Both artists have presented in galleries and received awards in exhibitions statewide and around the country.

The exhibition runs through June 30 during Art House hours, Tuesday-Friday, 12 - 5 p.m. and Saturday, 12 - 4 p.m.

Friday, June 16	3 - 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 17	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday, June 18	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Arts & Acts Festival

Main and Center Streets, downtown Northville

The Northville Art House spotlights the imagination, art, talent and cultural diversity of regional artists at the sixth annual [Arts and Acts Festival](#). The festival includes the 29th annual juried fine art show Art in the Sun, featuring more than 70 talented artists; the Sandbox Play Festival produced by Tipping Point Theatre; the Short on Words Literary Contest; musical entertainment featuring some of metro Detroit's top musicians; children's activities; the Northville Art House Chalk Festival; our new Young Artist Juried Art Fair; and a variety of festival food and drink.



Every Sunday
Sundays at Mill Race Village ~
Buildings open for the season
1 - 4 p.m.

Every Sunday in the summer, the historic buildings at [Mill Race Village](#) are open to the public with docents that tell the history of the building and answer questions. Admission is

free. Stroll the beautiful grounds, bring a picnic lunch and check out the General Store.



Tuesday, June 20
Tunes on Tuesday Children's Concert Series

**Town Square (Located on Main Street
across from the Marquis Theatre)**

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

The performer is Gemini, and it is sponsored by MOMS Club of Northville. Each week, a different artist will perform.

In the event of rain, the performance will be held at Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall Theatre (108 East Main, Northville).

NORTHVILLE HILLS GOLF CLUB

JUNE 20

10:00 AM
SHOTGUN START

4 PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

\$150 PER GOLFER
\$570 PER FOURSOME

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GOLF
CLASSIC



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SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017
NOON - 6:00PM

MILLENNIUM PARK
45769 W. 6 MILE, NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP

TICKET COST \$30

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES:

ADMISSION TO EVENT

TEN(10) 3 OZ. TASTING TICKETS

ONE 12OZ. TAPPED IN THE 'VILLE MUG

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***Hop on your bike and
join your neighbors for
a leisurely ride through
the Northville community!***

- Slow-paced bike ride; suitable for all ages and skill levels
- Explore the community, including Maybury State Park
- Ice Cream!*
- Register for a single ride or any combination including all six!
- Check-in for each ride starts one hour prior to the scheduled event, in the parking lot of the Recreation Center at Hillside Middle School
- Registration begins May 15th



Register @ northvilleparksandrec.org

\$3 per person

(each week, as many weeks as you want!)

***Wristbands good for \$4 towards
ice cream, custard or frozen yogurt
at each week's sponsor on the day of
or day after the event.**

Thu	June 8	6 pm	Brown Dog Creamery
Sun	June 25	2 pm	Custard Time
Mon	July 10	6 pm	Yogurt Palooza
Wed	July 26	6 pm	Fred's Ice Cream
Sat	Aug 12	2 pm	Fred's Ice Cream

Northville's Pokey Pedal is brought to you by Northville Parks & Recreation and Maybury State Park (through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources)



NORTHVILLE
PARKS & RECREATION



June 8



**July 26,
Aug 12**



July 10



June 25

Business

Sign up for automatic tax bill payment

Take advantage of automatic tax bill payment. Residents and businesses may now pay their tax bills automatically by [clicking here and completing the online form](#).

Enroll in the program and your summer tax bill will be paid on Aug. 31. For the winter tax bill you designate the date of payment as either Dec. 31 or Feb. 14. By taking advantage of this program, your taxes will always be paid on time whether you are sick or out of town. Added benefits are no checks to write, no need to wonder if the check was received in time to avoid penalty and no trips to City Hall.

Participants in automatic bill payment of property taxes receive their tax bill in the mail on July 1st and December 1st with a letter confirming when the withdrawal will be made from their account. PLEASE NOTE: This is a year-round program. Electronic Funds Payment is not available for only the summer tax or only the winter tax bill.

Tax & Assessing data lookup

You may retrieve tax and assessing data from the convenience of your home 24/7 by [visiting the City of Northville's website](#).

If you have any questions, call the Tax & Assessing Office at 248-449-9901.

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 by December 1, 2015, they have produced and 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

Yard signs

Please be advised that signs cannot be placed in the right-of-way. Signs must be placed on your property, behind the sidewalk, or will be subject to removal. If you have any questions, please call Bill Barent, Ordinance Officer at 248-305-2707.

At Home

Sewage backups

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system and want to file a claim with the City, [please check our website for details](#) or call the 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.

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.

Get social with City Hall online

Be a follower on our Facebook page ([Northville City Hall, Michigan](#)) and our Twitter account [@NorthvilleCity](#).



You will be able to see stories, photos and videos of the City's people, places and events. We'll let you know about 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" the Northville Facebook page, you'll see our posts 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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