



**November 30, 2017**

**Meetings**

**This Just In...**

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## **Meetings**

**City Council** - Monday, December 4, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Planning Commission** - Tuesday, December 5, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Board of Zoning Appeals** - Wednesday, December 6, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

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

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

**Civic Concern offers food and other basics to those in need, while lifting their spirits**



Photo by Liz Cezat

In this season of goodwill and giving, people's thoughts turn to helping the less fortunate with monetary support, donations and volunteer efforts. One local organization that has enthusiastic community involvement is Northville Civic Concern, which has come to the rescue of people in need in Northville for more than 34 years.

The not-for-profit, all-volunteer organization is managed by Marlene Kunz, a resident of Northville Township and former Northville City employee. The agency's primary focus is to provide food. Clientele consists of low-income families, many who have jobs that don't pay a living wage. Others may be grappling with setbacks such as a job loss, medical condition, natural disaster or family tragedy. People who fit the criteria are individuals with a monthly income of \$1,595 or a family of four with a \$3,224 monthly income. They need to apply to become a client. (See the [website](#) for eligibility.)

Located at 43261 Seven Mile in the Highland Lakes Plaza, Civic Concern offers twice-monthly "shopping trips" where clients receive two cloth bags that are filled with canned goods and boxed items and they can also fill a third bag with items they need the most from the shopping table area. All of the families got a turkey dinner on Thanksgiving.

The organization also provides a boost of assistance with day-to-day needs, whether it's a tank of gas, a gift card for essentials, clothing, help paying utilities, or used furniture and appliances. Two sisters, Ruby and Brenda, maintain a barn full of furniture and appliances that they deliver to clients' homes. Kunz asks for receipts of how gift cards were spent to strengthen accountability on both sides.



Photo by Liz Cezat

***Kim Salsbery was grateful to get a turkey donated by Nancy Trainor, of Northville.***

Kim Salsbery, a client who came to the storefront building two days before Thanksgiving, received a turkey from a donor who was dropping it off. Salsbery's need for food and clothing spiked recently when her husband was laid off and her 21-year-old son returned home to live, bringing his two children: a baby and toddler.

Salsbery said, "Marlene is amazing, she helped guide me in getting help with the rent and has given me good advice."

"We're a small building but we're full of love," Kunz said. "They (our clients) know we care for them. We understand what they're going through."

Kunz marvels at the coincidence in which a client expresses a need and within a few days a donor happens to donate just what was needed. She believes divine intervention plays a role in Civic Concern's mission. "When you give yourself, it has a multiplier effect. One of our clients was in need as a child and now he's a famous researcher on the East Coast. He stops in here to help when he's in town."

If you visit the building to volunteer or drop off items, stick around for a while to see the flurry of activity and the welcoming environment that embraces both donors and recipients. People here truly care about others.

The agency accepts cash donations, unexpired food items, diapers, and personal care items, such as shampoo, toothpaste and toilet paper. Individuals and families contribute to Civic Concern, so do Northville schools and local restaurants and food

retailers. Silver Springs Elementary School does a "Socktober," in October where kids bring in a pair of socks. They perform a puppet show, then donate the socks to Civic Concern.

Others are regular doers and donors. The Scouts (Boys and Girls) make crafts or equipment for special uses. Knights of Columbus raises funds and this year's donation was used to buy winter coats. Bloomfield Hills Montessori donated eight turkeys for Thanksgiving paired with hand-drawn greeting cards.

Civic Concern also leverages services with other organizations, such as government agencies, attorneys' pro bono assistance, and counseling services. It is a site for Michigan Works, where people who receive Medicaid and/or a Bridge card volunteer a certain number of hours to qualify for those benefits. Kunz noted, "It takes a village - we have upwards of 100 contributors on a regular basis."

For the past five years, Nicole Tithof has been matching up donors with families in need (170 this year) who provide her with a list of their needs - not wants. Families receive items they requested, which are either wrapped as presents or assembled in boxes, at the annual Christmas party held at a local church in early December. In addition to lunch, donated by Channel 4 this year, every family gets a plate of homemade cookies made by volunteers.

The agency likes to get everyone involved. Children - even those with special needs - help out by writing the teeny stamped expiration dates on cans in big, bold numbers for easy viewing. Volunteers also stock shelves or organize donated clothing, which is set on steel racks made by Eagle Scouts. New volunteers are always welcome.

"What we're trying to do is show that it's not hard to give," Kunz said. "If you shop at a grocery store and pick up a free item as part of a shopper's special, why not donate that to our organization?"

Two years ago, the agency was broken into. Thieves made off with gift cards for gasoline and groceries, along with food items. The community was quick to replenish the depleted shelves. To prevent another break-in, the Northville Township Police Dept. installed security cameras inside the building and they are monitored 24/7.

Food and other donated items can be dropped off at Civic Concern during their operating hours ([see website](#)) or at World Custom Alterations, Cassel's Restaurant, Great Harvest and Genitti's. The Northville District Library and City Hall also accept donations for Civic Concern.

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**Northville launches StoryVille - Holiday stories that warm the heart on cold winter days & nights**



StoryVille - taped recordings of holiday stories by local celebrities and civic leaders - is playing now in downtown Northville and will be here until the end of December. Dozens of merchants have stories playing right outside their storefront, accessed by a mobile device. Windows are decorated in the theme of the book.

"StoryVille encourages families to come downtown and do something together. The event expands on the enjoyment of reading and brings creativity to the community," said Denise Jenkins, community outreach director for Preservation Dental. Jenkins brought the concept to Northville based on the Christmas stories read at stores in New York City and Chicago.

Dan Ferrara, co-owner of Northville Gallery, made sure all the locations in town were set up properly with speakers connected to their own wireless devices. Contributing sponsors are Preservation Dental, NCBA, Northville Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

My Little Paris Café and Bookstore ordered all of the holiday books so people can purchase their favorites right downtown. The Northville District Library also has copies of most books.



Photo by Denise Jenkins

***Chuck Gaidica, of WDIV, reads How the Grinch Stole Christmas, which is playing at Edwards.***

**StoryVille 2017 - [Hear a preview](#) of the stories and see where they are playing.**

## Events / Things to Do



**Dec. 1**  
**First Friday Experience**  
**6 p.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Downtown Northville**

Join us in Downtown Northville on the First Friday of each month for a special shopping, dining and artistic experience.

Our retailers stay open late and showcase new products and special trunk shows and offer limited time exclusive items or sales.

Our galleries showcase new exhibits, artists and pieces - often premiering them especially for the First Friday.

And don't forget the restaurants of Northville. Always great destinations, the bars and restaurants of Northville feature a wide-selection of cuisine from sushi to Mediterranean to American and Italian cuisine. Plan a date, grab a group of friends and don't miss out on First Fridays in Northville. [Read more...](#)

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*Happy Holidays*



## Van Dam's Boutique

**Celebrating 40 Years of Fashion and Friendship!**

Please join us on December 1st from 5:00 - 9:00 to help  
us celebrate 40 YEARS OF BUSINESS

40 YEARS OF BUSINESS doesn't just happen. It's the  
result of the wonderful people who support it faithfully!

I would like to THANK YOU from the bottom of my  
heart for letting me do something I SO LOVE, for so  
many years.

Chris Van Dam

Donny Rod, as "Rod Stewart" will be stopping in to help  
us celebrate.....So, be ready to Boogie!!!!!!



Photo by Liz Cezat

### **Through Dec. 16 Small Works Juried All-Media Exhibition**

The biennial Small Works Juried All-Media  
Exhibition features more than 150 works by 55  
artists from Michigan and around the country.  
The exhibition includes photography,  
paintings, ceramics, fibers, jewelry and more -  
all measure 12 inches or less in all

dimensions. All works are for sale and make a great holiday gift. Purchased art is  
available to take home starting on Dec. 1 at the First Friday Reception.

The Art House store is open Tuesday through Friday from 12 - 5 p.m., Saturdays

from 12 - 4 p.m. and every First Friday of the month from 6-9 p.m. The store features the work of more than 40 local artists. Art House is located at 215 W. Cady Street and is a facility of the Northville Arts Commission. For more information, call 248-344-0497 or [visit our website](#).

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**Dec. 2**  
**Traveling Gypsies Pop-Up Vintage Market @**  
**The Village Workshop (455 E. Cady)**  
**11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

This vintage-inspired Pop-Up Shop features jewelry, clothing and décor for sale. There's also live entertainment. No cost to attend. To learn more about the Traveling Gypsies please [click here](#).

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**December 4**  
**Leaf Collection**

The final street leaf collection for residents south of 8 Mile will be Dec. 4. Residents can rake leaves into the street **the weekend before** their scheduled pick-up. In between pick-up dates, leaves can be put in large paper bags and set at the curb on trash day for

composting until Dec. 1. Please contact DPW at 248-449-9930 with questions or [visit our website](#).

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**Friday, December 8 | 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.**  
**Saturday, December 9 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 10 | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Handcrafters Tinsel & Treasures Craft Show**  
**Northville Community Center, 202 West Main Street**

Ranked in the Top 50 shows in the country, Tinsel & Treasures is a must attend shopping experience. With handmade gifts for everyone on your list, you won't want to miss the last and best show of the season! [Visit our website for more information](#).



Admission: \$4  
12 & Under: Free

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**Every Saturday and Sunday, December 2-23**  
**Santa In Town Square**  
**12 - 4 p.m.**  
**Northville Town Square, 150 East Main Street**

Kids bring your wish list! Parents bring your camera! Come tell Santa what you want for Christmas and then visit the downtown merchants to hear your favorite holiday story. See Storyville article above.

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**December 9 & 10**  
**December 16 & 17**  
**Santa visits & open house at Maybury Farm**  
**10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily**

The holidays are here! We wish you and yours all the best and to say thank you for your support of the Farm, we are once again offering free Santa Visits at the Farm. And this year we are adding a free Holiday Open House for everyone of all ages to view the farm in all its winter beauty. You will be able to walk around the Farm, through the barns, engage with the animals and notice how Nature is preparing them with winter coats for the cold months ahead. Our General Store will be open and stocked with wonderful gifts and delicious treats including warm cocoa and cider. We'll have a bonfire, activities for the kids and a family photo booth.

Due to the popularity of this event, reservations are suggested for families wanting to visit with Santa - he has lots of children to visit around the world and has limited time at the Farm! Please click the link below to select a day and time for your family. You will receive a confirmation email upon registering and a reminder email two days before your visit (Santa is getting really tech savvy!). Limited space for walk-ins will be available hourly.

[Click Here for Santa Visit Reservations](#)

This year, Santa's sleigh will be parked in our century old barn. You will enter the Farm through the General Store, then walk out to the barn for your visit and pictures. No professional photos are taken, you are welcome to use your own cameras. Remember, its a farm in the winter and our barn is not fully heated so dress for the weather!

There is no admission charge for this event but we appreciate your donations to help us in our educational work at Maybury Farm. If you have questions about the Holiday Open House or Santa Visits, please call our offices at 248-374-0200. We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you! [Click here for more information](#).

## **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. [Click here to access this option](#). 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 \$10 for payments of \$10,000 or more

## **Around Town**

### **Gift Checks**

Support your local business community and give a gift that fits any occasion. Northville Gift Checks are a great way to give a special gift while also supporting your local merchants.

Gift Checks can be purchased at the Northville Chamber of Commerce and are available in three denominations of: \$5, \$10, \$25.

Thank you for shopping local.

[Click here for a list of participating businesses](#)

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### **Historic Resource Council 2017 Directory is available**

City Hall has a copy of the Historic Resource Council 2017 Directory, which lists

architects, contractors, suppliers and others who specialize in historic preservation, rehabilitation and adaptation of historic structures and houses. This directory will interest residents of historic homes, owners of businesses in historic buildings and others who own property or are involved in the City's Historic District. The book can be viewed at City Hall and online at [Michigan Historic Preservation Network's website](#) (see the publications page).

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## **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 that includes name, address, city, zip code and phone number with area code 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.

For safety sake 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

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.

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## Northville Police Department has free gun safety locks

Don't take the risk of having an unlocked gun get into the wrong hands - especially if you have young children and teenagers. Stop in at the Northville Police Department lobby to get your free gun safety lock. There are no forms to fill out and no waiting.

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## Get social with City Hall online

Follow 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.



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## 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](mailto:lcezat@ci.northville.mi.us).

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

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