



**December 14, 2017**

**Meetings**

**This Just In...**

**Events / Things to Do**

**Business**

**Around Town**

**At Home**

**City offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26 for the holidays.**

## **Meetings**

**City Council** - Monday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Planning Commission** - Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Downtown Development Authority** - Tuesday, Dec. 19, 8 a.m. - Meeting Room - City Hall

**Historic District Commission** - Wednesday, December 20, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Senior Advisory Commission** - Thursday, December 21, 1 p.m. - Community Center

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

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

### **Firefighter of the Year J.C. Sicard is honored, cites teamwork**

Jean-Christophe (J.C.) Sicard, a two-year veteran of the Northville City Fire Department (NCFD), received the Firefighter of the Year award for 2017. It was announced by Fire Chief Steve Ott at the NCFD annual holiday party on Dec. 2.

"He has a knack for being where the action is," Ott said.

In 2017, J.C. (and two others) received a commendation from the City of Northville Police Dept. for assisting officers with an intoxicated individual who threatened to kill himself and others - resolving the incident in a safe manner. J.C. (and four others) received a unit citation from the Novi Fire Dept. for mutual aid response on a fatal structure fire. In addition, J.C. is dedicated to training and responds quickly to dispatch calls, Ott noted.

A native of France, J.C. puts a lot into his role as a firefighter and first responder. Since it's an on-call position, those who serve also have other jobs. He is a self-employed custom painter and also works in a home remodeling business owned by fellow firefighter Lt. Matt Samhat.

"I was surprised by the award. I really appreciate it," J.C. said. "It's more than an individual award. It takes teamwork. By working together, things get done faster, better and safer."



***Fire Chief Steve Ott presented the Firefighter of the Year Award to Jean-Christophe (J.C.) Sicard.***

J.C. received a plaque for Firefighter of the Year and his name now appears on a master plaque in Fire Station #1. He typically responds to up to two calls a day on his pager. If available, he confirms with dispatch, jumps in his vehicle, turns on the flashing light and siren and drives to the Fire Station, where he and other responders transfer to a fire truck and head to the scene of the fire or emergency response call.

He's also part of the training committee and often goes to the station on Thursday nights to conduct training. He is motivated by the ability to help those in distress.

"The CPR calls are the most challenging," J.C. said. "Sometimes we are lucky. Sometimes it's too late. When that happens, it's a sad day for us and the families.

A recent call to Northville Square resulted in a good outcome for an individual who experienced a severe medical condition while exercising. J.C. was one of the first

responders on the scene, and an AED was used in the resuscitation.

"The dedication and hard work of J.C. and many others in the department allow us to provide a high level of service on a consistent basis," Ott said. "My personal thanks go out to our firefighters and first responders who train, work hard and respond to calls every day."

---

### **Residents and businesses who park on city streets between 3-5 a.m. need to obtain a parking permit before year-end**

Parking is prohibited on city streets and municipal lots between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. If you need to park your vehicle on the street or in a lot overnight for an extended period of time, please [complete this application](#) and submit it to the Police Department to obtain a permit. If you have any outstanding parking tickets, you must pay those tickets before a permit will be issued.

Parking permits for neighborhood streets cost \$10 per month or \$120 per year; permits for the Central Business District are \$5 per month or \$60 per year. The deadline for obtaining an annual permit is Dec. 31, 2017. The permit comes with a parking sticker to be placed on the vehicle's upper left corner of the rear window.

Permits typically are used by people who come to work between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. in the Central Business District, and residents who have several cars and not enough driveway space to park them.

"The permit is part of an ordinance that ensures residents are not interrupted from any City services they would expect, such as snow removal, leaf removal and street sweeping. It also helps the Police Dept. identify suspicious vehicles and keeps the streets clear for emergency response," said Police Officer Scott Groff, who issues the permits.

For example, if a home has a two-car driveway and three vehicles, the homeowner would need to purchase a permit if they plan to park one vehicle in the street.

If residents have a short-term parking concern, such as having a visitor, they can call Dispatch at 248-349-1234 and be added to the overnight parking list to avoid being issued a citation. However, this permission will not be granted on a continuous basis.

The Police Dept. issues 60 to 70 parking permits annually. If you park without a permit, you will be ticketed. Fines are \$5 if paid within seven days, \$15 after seven days, and \$40 after 21 days.

---



## Area seniors enjoy a Winter Wonderland Holiday luncheon

Seniors got a jump on the holidays at the Winter Wonderland Holiday luncheon on Dec. 13, which featured a delicious meal and a sing-a-long with the Dave DeClark Band. Northville Senior Adult Services hosted the event at the Northville Community Center. Many posed for photos in front of the beautifully decorated trees.



Photos by Kayley Dahring

*From left, Betty Kaercher, Margaret Sabuda and Shirley Flannigan.*



*The Dave DeClark Band entertained guests at the luncheon.*

---

### **Area nonprofits invite guests to view their uniquely decorated trees**



Photo by Liz Cezat

***Ten trees grace the living room of the Northville Community Center. Seniors are invited to use the community space in the building to do crafts and puzzles, play cards, read and socialize.***

The Northville Community Center's Festival of Trees is underway. Visit weekdays and weekends when the building is open to see 10 trees beautifully decorated by area non-profits. There is no charge.

The living room of the community center has a glowing fire in the stone-front fireplace. Seniors are welcome to meet in the community space to visit, play cards, read, create crafts or put together puzzles. This holiday season, put the Community Center on your list of places to visit and stay for a while.

---

### **StoryVille offers holiday stories that warm the heart on cold winter days**

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.



Photos by Liz Cezat

***Auntie Claus, Home for the Holidays is playing at Adorn, Fine Flower Artisans and Chocolates by Renee. Jessica Striegler, executive director of Northville Community Foundation, is the reader.***





***Chris Edmond, of WNIC Radio, is the reader of The Littlest Elf, playing at Rock On Main. [See more photos of storefronts.](#)***

"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.





*Thomas Benadier, owner of My Little Paris Cafe & Bookstore, has all of the StoryVille books for sale.*

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

## Events / Things to Do



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.

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](#).

---



***Santa is at this house on weekend days. Stop by for a visit with the kids or grandkids.***

**Every Saturday and Sunday, through Dec. 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 in this issue.)

---



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

We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you. To thank you for your support, we are offering free Santa visits at the farm. This year we are adding a free Holiday Open House for visitors of all ages to view the farm in its winter beauty. You can 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. 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](#)

Santa's sleigh will be parked in our century-old barn. Enter the farm through the General Store, then walk out to the barn for your visit and take your own pictures. (There will be no professional photographer to take photos of children with Santa.) The barn is not fully heated so remember to dress for the weather.

There is no admission charge for this event but donations are welcome to support our educational work at Maybury Farm. If you have questions, please call 248-374-0200. [Click here for more information.](#)

---



**Through Jan. 3, 2018  
Friends of the Rouge joins Newman's  
Own Foundation \$500K holiday  
challenge on CrowdRise**

Help Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) win \$150,000 by donating to its CrowdRise campaign. The Newman's Own Foundation

\$500k Holiday Challenge is being conducted on CrowdRise, the largest crowdfunding platform for good. It is a friendly fundraising campaign for eligible U.S.-based 501(c)3 charities. Participating organizations will compete for \$500,000 in prize money.

FOTR plans to use the funds to support communities making the Rouge River fishable and paddlable, beating back the spread of invasive plants and animals, and educating Metro Detroit children about stewarding their backyard river. Giving to this campaign will help restore the Rouge for future generations to enjoy.

The Holiday Challenge runs through Jan. 3, 2018 at 1:59 p.m. There are 10 grand prizes up for grabs with the team that raises the most online winning \$150,000 and 10th place winning \$2,500.

CrowdRise Challenges are innovative fundraising competitions for charitable organizations designed to build capacity, create massive engagement and leverage, and use the power of the crowd to provide new meaningful funding streams for organizations in every sector.

[Click here to help FOTR win the Newman's Own Foundation \\$500k Holiday Challenge.](#)



## Save the Bug Hunts

The Winter Stonefly Search and the Spring and Fall Bug Hunts are in danger of being cancelled. Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) does not plan to fund the Benthic

Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Program for 2018 due to other obligations.

FOTR notes that this program has been around for 19 years, and involves hundreds of volunteers who look for insects and other artifacts which is documented. The collecting data is used to screen for problems and guide restoration efforts. In fall 2017, volunteers discovered invasive Asian clams in the Main Branch for the first time and were able to document the effect of the recent extreme low water levels in the Lower Branch (see report). No one else is tracking the overall health of the river in this way.

FOTR is seeking to find replacement funding for the loss of \$30,000. At minimum, they are trying to raise \$20,000 by the end of March 2018 to continue at a bare-bones level.

Here is how you can help:

- **Donate to the program and share this link with family and friends**
- Help us to find other funding sources by talking with your employer or other contacts about the program and how they might help to keep it going

Thank you for anything you can do to help us get this program funded. For more information about the program visit our website. Here is a link to a recent news article about the funding loss. Contact Program Manager Sally Petrella [spetrella@therouge.org](mailto:spetrella@therouge.org) 313-792-9621 with any questions or suggestions.

**Give.Restore.Enjoy.**





This holiday season, please make a generous donation to Friends of the Rouge's Give.Restore.Enjoy campaign.

Your support helps ensure that the next generation will have a clean river to play beside.  
We owe it to all of them.

[Press here - Give.Restore.Enjoy.](#)

## **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.

Participants in automatic bill payment of property taxes receive their tax bill in the mail on July 1 and Dec. 1 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 annually that 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**

### **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](#)

---

### **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).

## **At Home**

### **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.

---

### **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.

---

### **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.

---

## 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.

---

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

---

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

Copyright © 2017. All Rights Reserved.

City of Northville | 215 W. Main St. | Northville | MI | 48116

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) [northvilleupdate@muniweb.com](mailto:northvilleupdate@muniweb.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [northvilleupdate@muniweb.com](mailto:northvilleupdate@muniweb.com)





