



December 21, 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. Happy Holidays!

Meetings

No meetings scheduled

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

This Just In...



Photos by Liz Cezat

City Council recap

Dec. 18, 2017

Northville City Council members, from left, seated, Mayor Pro-tem Nancy Darga, Patrick Giesa and Marilyn Price; standing, Mayor Ken Roth and Sam Ekong.

Cady Project lot adjustments - City Council agreed to amend the option to purchase made in 2016 on a site slated to become a mixed-use, four-story building with six premium condominium units and first-floor offices at the southeast corner of Cady and Center. The original option allows for the sale of the 24-foot westerly portion of the City-owned parking lot in exchange for 12 feet of space on the north side of the Cady Project and a cash payment. The new configuration conveys nine feet on the west side to be used for eight public parking spaces, with an easement for overhead balconies. As part of the amendment, the developer will install a storm sewer under the parking lot, which will retain the runoff from the parking lots and new building. The price went from \$62,454 to \$58,894 based on the actual square footage exchanged.

Cady Street Parking Deck stair repair - City Council approved awarding a \$9,625 contract to RAM Construction, of Livonia, to repair the cast-iron stair treads in the east and west stair towers. Meanwhile, bids will be taken in January 2018 for an assessment and repair of the entire parking deck.

Purchase of utility vehicle for Parks & Recreation - City Council approved payment of \$23,554 to purchase a John Deere Gator XUV with a V-blade attachment from Bader & Sons Co. in South Lyon. The vehicle replaces an older model that was auctioned off earlier this year. The newest vehicle will be one of three that the department owns. The XUV's blade will enable it to plow snow at the venues where it conducts programs.

Purchase of pick-up truck for Dept. of Public Works - City Council approved the

purchase of a F350 4 x 4 pickup truck with a V-plow attachment for \$37,940. It will replace a 20-year-old truck, which will be sold. The pending purchase was made through the Macomb County Finance Dept., which obtained a volume discount from Signature Ford of Owosso, Mich., and offered a deal to local municipalities.

City of Detroit Water Contract / Amendment 4 - The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) held a five-year review with the City to gauge the water usage for the entire City during the next five years. City officials recommended staying with the current usage volume and City Council concurred.

Legal action concerning Horse Racing Law of 1995 - The City Council authorized the City attorney to pursue legal action to reverse the determination of the Michigan Gaming Control Board regarding the definition of "breaks" in the Horse Racing Law of 1995. The board's determination has resulted in a loss of nearly \$80,000 in racing track payments to the City since 2015. Further, the City attorney was given the green light to work with the City of Hazel Park, which also receives payment from its hometown racetrack, as a potential co-plaintiff in legal action.

People in the News (from the consent agenda)

Two members of the Historic District Commission - **David Field and Mario Tartaglia** - have been reappointed for terms that end on Jan. 1, 2021.

[See the City Council meeting here.](#)



Mayor Ken Roth met with members of a Northville Boy Scout troop at the City Council meeting on Dec. 18.

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.

The Northville Community Center's Festival of Trees continues through Dec. 31. 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 often 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 do puzzles. This holiday season, put the Community Center on your list of places to visit and stay for a while.

If you have an artificial Christmas tree that you'd like to donate to the Senior Center for decorating in the 2018 holiday season, please call 1-248-349-4140.

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

"Yes, Virginia - There is a Santa Claus" is the letter/story read by Emaline Kara, 9, of Northville, with the response read by Dr. William Demray, owner of Preservation Dental. Listen to it and see the decorations at Comerica Bank on Main Street.



At Northville Nail Boutique, Blaine Fowler, of WDVD Radio reads Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree.

"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.



At the Northville Gallery, Cody Crosby, former Disney performer, reads the Polar Express. See more photos of storefronts [here](#).

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



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

**Santa In Town Square
Weekends, 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.)

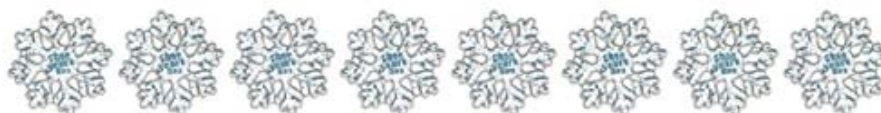


Maybury State Park
Shoe Year's Eve Trek
Sunday, December 31, 2017
10:00 -11:00 am
Trailhead Shelter
(Use Eight Mile Road entrance)

Maybury State Park, Friends of Maybury, Gazelle Sports, RunDTP and Northville Road Runners invite you to join them in a non-competitive, fun activity to get your 2018 fitness resolution jumpstarted. Run, walk, hike, or ski – whatever you like!

Dress appropriately for the weather

Light refreshments available



This program is FREE, however a Recreation Passport is required for park entry. The Recreation Passport can be purchased when renewing your license plate tabs at the Secretary of State or at any state park office. For further info www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport.

Maybury State Park Office (248) 349-8390.



**NORTHVILLE
ROAD RUNNERS**





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 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

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 3:30pm.

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.

Obtain a parking permit before Dec. 31 for street & lot parking from 3-5 a.m.

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, [complete this application](#) and submit it to the Police Department to obtain a permit. 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 parking sticker should be placed on the upper left corner of the vehicle's rear window. If residents have a short-term parking need, such as having a visitor, call Dispatch at 248-349-1234 and ask to be added to the overnight parking list to

avoid a citation.

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

Free home fire safety review

The Northville City Fire Department, which serves the Cities of Northville and Plymouth, offers home fire safety reviews. 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. This is a free service, call 248-449-9920 to schedule an appointment.

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 lcezat@ci.northville.mi.us.

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

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