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December 28, 2017

Meetings

This Just In...

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**City offices will be closed on  
Monday, Jan. 1 and Tuesday, Jan. 2.**

**Happy Holidays!**

### **Meetings**

**Note Date: City Council** - Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Board of Zoning Appeals** - Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m. - Meeting Room - City Hall

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

**This Just In...**

## **Turn your Christmas tree into wood chips for gardens**

Adorned, Christmas trees light up a room and have special significance during the holiday season. When the holidays are over, placing your tree at the curb during the special tree collection period can also light up someone's yard this summer - as recycled wood chips.

Christmas trees (without plastic wrap or any decorations) will be picked up and recycled on Tuesday, Jan. 2 and Wednesday, Jan 3. Trees were also picked up for recycling on Dec. 26 and 27. After Jan. 3, any tree left at the curb will be picked up with the regular trash collection and taken to the landfill.

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## **Try brine rather than rock salt to keep ice off your driveway and sidewalks**

The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) advises people living in Northville and other communities that drain into the Rouge River to apply brine before a snow storm and shovel frequently to keep snow from accumulating and icing up. Brine is a mixture of salt and water. A batch can be pre-mixed and stored in your basement. Keep excessive salt from entering the Rouge River to improve water quality.

Brine recipe:

- 1 ½ gallons hot water
- 3-4 cups rock or table salt
- Bucket
- Sprayer

Directions: Combine salt and hot water in a bucket until all salt is dissolved completely. Pour mixed brine into a sprayer and apply to sidewalk and driveway prior to a snowfall. Each gallon should cover 1,000 square feet of surface (about 200 feet of sidewalk).

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## **Jim Gallogly set to retire after 22 years with City of Northville**



Photo by Liz Cezat

When asked what he does, Jim Gallogly, director of the Department of Public Works, quips that he's the town janitor.

**DPW Director Jim Gallogly will retire from the City of Northville on Jan. 11, 2018.**

In reality, he has a domain that includes clearing leaves and snow from City streets as well as repaving them; working with utilities to ensure that people have clean, accessible, affordable water and functioning sewage lines; and maintaining and repairing City-owned facilities and properties. It's a tall order for one man with a staff of only six.

His last day will be Jan. 11, the day he turns 66. The vacancy will be filled on an interim basis by Chris Porman, who also is DPW director for the City of Plymouth.

Being a civil engineer with B.S. degrees in construction technology from Purdue and in engineering from Tri State University, he knows what it takes to build a road or install a new sewer line. Yet, he also has to manage the finance and accounting portion - paying contractors on time and preventing cost over-runs. His master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University helps with that aspect.

Prior to joining the Northville City staff in May 1995, Gallogly worked for the cities of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, and for a consulting firm.

In his job, he frequently interacts with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), neighborhoods, City Council and the Beautification Commission, schools, the Police Department, Fire Department, Finance and Personnel. "I think that's a positive," he

says, noting that he enjoys helping other departments when services overlap.

"We're here to provide service to the community," said Gallogly, who, as City engineer, also serves on the Building Authority Board. The board establishes policy and administers City-bonded construction projects.

A good day is when he takes on a project and accomplishes it, and gets some positive feedback along the way. A bad day is when projects don't go as planned, and problems arise that adversely impact residents, local businesses or local governments. The solution may be to implement a work-around; at worse, it means trying plan B, which is often costly.

"People don't know what we do, they only know when it doesn't work - if the sewer gets backed up or the water doesn't turn on," he said.

In his two decades with the City, he has learned that people are happy when work continues at a steady pace. If there's a slowdown in road construction or sewer pipe replacement, people don't see work progressing and wonder why. Often, the vendor or a supplier has run into a problem that needs to be addressed before the project can continue.

He takes pride in talking about issues with residents and others - staying calm and listening to their point of view as he tries to work out a solution. If a street is about to be paved, he sends a letter to each homeowner on the block explaining what to expect during the construction.

"Jim's experience and dedication to the community will be sorely missed," said City Manager Pat Sullivan. "His kindness and good humor were always a part of his dealings with residents and co-workers. We wish him a long and happy retirement."

The most dramatic change he has witnessed during his tenure was the transformation of downtown Northville from a sleepy town with an assortment of storefronts, ranging from classic and chic to commonplace. Main Street was reconstructed with new facades to preserve its historic roots. And the newly formed DDA brought events to town, which drew people who returned again and again - boosting sales at restaurants, bars and stores. The City is now one of the premier downtown destinations in Michigan.

A longtime Novi resident, Gallogly and his wife, Lorna, will move permanently to their lakefront house in Northern Indiana, which they recently renovated. The couple has two sons: the younger lives in Pennsylvania and the older lives in Grand Rapids, with his wife and two young children.

Gallogly says he enjoys doing outdoor work and plans to do more of it in his retirement. "I will be one of those people with a spotless lawn." He'll have more time for family get-togethers with his adult sons, grandchildren and siblings, who also live on the lake in Indiana.

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## 2017 highlights

*All of these stories are on the City's website. Please use the search function to locate them.*

**January** – AEDs were purchased for police vehicles.

**February** – City introduces online inspection scheduling for contractors. Twitter account goes live.

**March** – Work begins on Randolph Creek to dredge it, form new banks, remove contaminated soil and improve water flow.

**April** – Final site plan accepted to build 16-unit condo development at 314 N. Center; Northville Police has successful collection during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

**May** – City Council extends the contract with Waste Management for five years, with first-year savings and an additional two weeks of compost collection.

**June** – Beautification Commission celebrates 50 years.

**July** – Charles Gevirtz survives cardiac arrest after Northville police use new AED.

**August** – Major road repairs are made to High Street, Elmsmere and Beck Road, from 8 to 9 Mile. East Cady has a plan created for future development.

**September** – The 150th anniversary of Northville's founding is celebrated at the Heritage Festival.

**October** – A national historic marker is installed at Oakwood Cemetery to commemorate veterans and settlers buried there.

**November** – Holiday season kicks off with new StoryVille book readings.

**December** – New website redesign gets underway.

## Events / Things to Do

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## 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](http://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.](#)

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### **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.

The program, in place for 19 years, involves hundreds of volunteers who look for insects and other artifacts and document them. 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 documented the effect of the recent extreme low water levels in the Lower Branch (see report). No other group is tracking the overall health of the river in this way.

FOTR is seeking to find replacement funding 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 FOTR 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**

### **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 Flat Fee of \$10.00, anything over \$10,000

## **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.

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### **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.

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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 3 business days.

## At Home

### Brush collection program

City of Northville residents can 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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