



January 4, 2018

Meetings

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Meetings

Youth Assistance - Tuesday, Jan. 9, 8 a.m. - Community Center

Housing Commission - Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m. - Allen Terrace

Arts Commission - Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m. - Art House

Goals & Objectives Session - City Council - Thursday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers

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

This Just In...

City Council recap, Jan. 3, 2018

CDBG funds for Senior Citizen Centers - The first of two public hearings was held at the City Council meeting regarding how \$22,924 from the Wayne County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will be used in 2018. The second hearing will be Jan. 16 at the next City Council meeting. CDBG funds are intended for the operation of Senior Citizen Centers for programs to keep seniors active and involved in their community. Housing director Tracey Emmanuel proposed that funds be used to replace malfunctioning PTAC units (individual packaged terminal air conditioners). The balance will be used for general program administration.

Rural Hill Cemetery Expansion (Phase II) Program - City Council approved awarding a \$24,650 contract to Zeimet Wozniak & Associates, of New Hudson, for the design and construction management of the cemetery expansion. The company was the low bidder and has experience in cemetery expansion projects in metro Detroit. The City has previously worked with the firm on various street and utility projects.

New appointments -

Historic District Study Committee - City Council has appointed seven individuals to serve on the Historic District Study Committee, which will work with the consultant group to review their reports and recommendations prior to the consultant's presentation to the Historic District Commission. They are: James Allen and David Field, members of the Historic District Commission; Leanie Bayley and Mark Chester, members of the Northville Historical Society; Robert Miller, architect; Suzanne Cozart, Historic District property owner, and Jeff Russell, resident at large.

[View the meeting here.](#)

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 Wednesday, Jan 3. Trees were also picked up for recycling on Jan. 2 and last week. After Jan. 3, any tree left at the curb will be picked up with the regular trash collection and taken to the landfill.

Officer Thomas Barber joins Northville Police Department



Photo by Liz Cezat

Police Officer Thomas Barber has legends of stories to tell from the six and one-half years he spent on the Baltimore Police Department. He brings street smarts, psychological insight and courtroom experience to his new role as an officer of Northville's Police Dept.

He began with the department on Dec. 4 and, like other officers on the force, works 12 hour shifts for now. When asked how he stays awake, he's quick to reply, "Coffee."

A 2009 graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Criminology Program and a veteran of the Baltimore Police Academy, his goal as a police officer is to deal effectively with criminals, protect the victims and deploy methods that prevent crime.

"I have worked in a high stress, high call volume police department (of 89 square miles) and bring that experience to Northville," - a city of only two square miles. "The crime scenes are totally different - there, you go to a crime scene, make the arrests and hand it off to an investigator. Here, I will be involved in the crime scene and the investigation and ultimately appear in court."

He anticipates educating officers in Northville about how to manage a crime scene. He is also eager to learn from others about the role of a police officer in a smaller community.

The Baltimore Police Academy sends newly hired officers through a six-month training program before they become a full-fledged officer. The action-oriented bookend of his education complemented the cerebral bookend of earning a college degree.

Barber is originally from Springfield Township, near Holly. He learned of the job through a posting on a police employment website and was excited about coming back home to Michigan. He is married and has two children.

Working in a small town job brings him closer to the community. "I truly believe if you know the people who you are working with and for, life as a police officer is much easier. You're not seen as just a blue uniform," he said. "I want to serve everyone equally - residents, business owners and visitors."

His beat involves patrolling the City. He expects the most action will be in policing traffic violations and property crime. What he likes most about being a police officer is "helping those that can't help themselves. I would like to be a guide for those that have been victimized. I try to prevent crimes before they happen."

He's ready for policing all of the events that Northville holds. He personally attended the 2017 Heritage Festival and found it to be well organized with effective traffic rerouting.

New Year's Eve Hike at Maybury State Park



Photo by Chuck Murdock

Participants gathered for a group shot in front of the park's trailhead building, which was enclosed about five years ago by a group of Friends members. Far right: Park Supervisor Traci Sincock.

About 50 hearty individuals - from children to seniors - hiked, biked, snowshoed, and cross-country skied at Maybury State Park the morning of Dec. 31, 2017 to ring

in the New Year. Friends of Maybury President Chuck Murdock and other Friends assisted with the annual event and provided refreshments after the workout. Park Supervisor Traci Sincock managed the event for Maybury Park - one of several local state parks that put on a New Year's community outing.

"It was quite cold, but was a really beautiful day to be in the park," Murdock said. "The groomed cross-country ski trails are awesome - if you ski, you really need to check them out."

Murdock expressed his thanks to park staff and all Friends volunteers for the successful event, and extended a "Happy New Year" to all.

About Friends of Maybury: There are about 60 members in the Friends group and it is open to new members as well. The group's annual meeting will be Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Northville District Library. [Visit the website for details.](#)



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 313-792-9621 with any questions or suggestions.

Events / Things to Do

Business

Tree permits required

A permit from the Building Department may be required prior to cutting down any tree in the City of Northville. Check with the Building Department at 248 449-9902 to find out if a permit is required before cutting down a tree. The City strenuously enforces this ordinance, which is regulated by [Section 90 of the City of Northville Code](#).

Around Town

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).

Parking

Did you know it is illegal to park on City Streets between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. without a permit?

If you are having visitors or work done on your driveway and must park in the street overnight, call Community Dispatch at 248-349-1234 by 2 a.m. with the license plate number and street location of the vehicle to avoid a parking ticket.

At Home

An easy way to dispose of old medications

Do you have outdated prescription or over-the-counter medications that you want to get rid of? Don't flush these medications down the toilet - it pollutes the water supply; don't throw them away because they will end up in a landfill and may be

consumed by wildlife. There is a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted medications. Bring your unwanted medication - no liquids, needles or injectable medication - to the secure drop box in the lobby at the Northville Township Police Department at 41600 Six Mile Road. There is no paperwork required and the bin can be accessed 24/7. When the drop box is full, collections are picked up for disposal by the Drug Enforcement Authority.

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).

Secretary of State MiTimeLine appointment system

Why wait in line? The [Secretary of State](#) now has a system available at several locations where residents can make an appointment or hold your place in line. [Check locations online](#) to schedule an appointment and they will call or text you when your turn is coming up.

Sewage backups

Homeowners may experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system. If you intend 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.

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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.

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

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