



# Northville

## City News

*A weekly eNewsletter for the community*



January 11, 2018

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**City offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 15,  
in observance of Martin Luther King Day.**

## Meetings

**(Note Date) City Council** - Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**(Note Location) Planning Commission** - Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. - Meeting Room - City Hall

**Downtown Development Authority** - Tuesday, Jan. 16, 8 a.m. - Meeting Room - City Hall

**Historic District Commission** - Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

**Senior Advisory Commission** - Thursday, Jan. 18, 1 p.m. - Community Center

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

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

### **Retiring library director leaves technology legacy to community**



Photo provided by Northville District Library

***Julie Herrin retires on Jan. 15 after working more than two decades at the library.***

After 20 years as director of the Northville District Library, Julie Herrin will retire on Jan. 15, 2018. The Northville library has kept pace with the evolving, innovative world of libraries in large part due to Herrin's passion for technology and digital trends. She leaves behind a hub of lifelong learning that transcends checking out books and movies into a full range of technology tools and instruction.

Before coming to the Northville District Library, Herrin worked for 10 years in college libraries and eight years for a statewide training and computer organization. She joined the Northville library as a computer specialist librarian in 1996 and was named acting director a few months later. The Board of Trustees made the interim director position official in early 1997.

"I came to Northville because I wanted to work as a public librarian in a growing, vibrant community," said Herrin. "Although I was made director pretty quickly, I still

worked shifts on the Reference Desk for many years to fulfill that original goal."

Among her accomplishments, the biggest, she noted, were "Moving into the new building in October 1996, which was a major undertaking and took almost a full year to complete, and transitioning the library into a digital library.

"In 1996 we had one computer," Herrin said. "Today we have over 100 computers, laptops and tablets. We offer Wi-Fi throughout the building, as well as mobile hotspots and digital conversion equipment. Library users can access thousands of eBooks, digital audiobooks, music and magazines. Our team of digitally knowledgeable staff is always available to help patrons with their technology needs."

Under Herrin's guidance, two millage increases passed successfully, reflecting strong support of the Northville community. She also directed the implementation of two strategic plans for the library to help establish priorities and guide the library's growth. Physical improvements during the past 20 years included a new heating and air conditioning system, remodels of the Youth and Teen areas, and, most recently, the Browsing and Reading areas.

"I will miss working with the dedicated people here - our Board of Trustee members, Friends of the Library and our top-notch staff," said Herrin. "It's been a pleasure interacting with community members, other library directors, government officials and educators."

Future plans include spending time with family, especially her newest great granddaughter, due in January. Herrin also serves on the Board of Trustees for her local library.

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**New housing director draws upon vast experience and has a joy for seniors**



Photo by Liz Cezat

***Tracey Emmanuel, the new Housing director, is in her favorite place at Allen Terrace - the main dining room and gathering space.***

The new housing director who manages the Allen Terrace senior apartment complex on High Street started her new job just before a cold snap of single-digit temperatures, and got to know the residents more quickly since no one wanted to venture outside.

"The residents were so welcoming and glad to see me. I felt like a celebrity," said Tracey Emmanuel. "They are so engaging and positive. They like living here and it shows."

Emmanuel started the job right before the holidays, when getting the budget together was a high priority, along with property maintenance. She had to deal with several urgent maintenance issues and rose to the challenge. "It's different every single day," she said.

She plans to seek out more grant money to keep up with the continuous improvement needed at the building. The revenue comes primarily through the affordable rents. The building also has a capital fund that earns interest.

Her role is strictly housing, yet it's the people who make the job most exciting. "It's a population that I get along with well. My former office was in senior complex, and I got to know the seniors who lived there.

"Allen Terrace has a pool table, library, technology center and a beauty salon," she noted. The residents like to have those amenities in-house. There are also plenty of

cozy seating arrangements where residents can gather with each other and with their families when they visit.

The Residents' Council keeps seniors engaged and interacting with others by planning games, friendly competitions, movies and parties. The residents also enjoy programs put on by Senior Services, a part of Northville Parks and Recreation Dept.

Emmanuel meets monthly with the Residents' Council, a week before meeting with the Housing Commission, so she can share concerns and kudos with the commission that oversees the budget needs, maintenance and capital improvements at Allen Terrace.

While most residents are pleasant, there are times of discord and dissent. "When issues come up with resident complaints, I have to find the positive in the situation. I let them know that I'm listening, and will work with them to solve the problem. There are rules for safe living in a community setting that we abide by. Respect is the #1 goal. It helps residents maintain their dignity."

Emmanuel plans to explore the assisted living centers and long-term care facilities in and around the Northville community to enable residents who can no longer live in an apartment independently to move to a facility that offers assistance with personal care and health matters.

"I have a lot to learn about seniors and their needs. Everybody wants to age in place, but you can't necessarily do that in an apartment community designed for independent living," said Emmanuel, who plans to become certified in senior housing.

"Because Northville is a compact community with a lot of walkable streets and businesses, the residents can get around pretty easily," she said. "It helps that there is a Kroger's on Center Street."

Prior to coming to Northville, Emmanuel was a property manager of single-family housing for the City of Livonia's Community Development. She served in the U.S. Army for four years in the mid 1980s. Her experience combined with a B.A. degree in Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University made her an ideal candidate for the job, most recently held by Sherry Necelis, who retired.

Emmanuel and her husband, Mike, live in Livonia; they have three daughters in their 20s.

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### **Three boards, commissions have openings for volunteer members**

The City has openings for qualified and interested volunteers to serve on three boards: the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors, the



Northville Senior Advisory Commission, and the Housing Commission.

**The DDA Board of Directors** strives to enhance the quality of life for the residents of the greater Northville area through economic and physical revitalization of the downtown business district. The DDA coordinates and supports activities to promote the economic viability of the downtown area. It also acts as an advocate for a safe, clean and attractive central business district. A strong downtown center is a major attraction for development and enhances the quality of the life for the entire community.

The board meets at 8 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the lower level of City Hall. Information about the board composition and responsibilities is available on the [DDA website](#). For more information, contact Lori Ward at 248-349-0345 or [lward@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:lward@ci.northville.mi.us).

**The Northville Senior Advisory Commission** serves as an advisory board for the senior services and programs of the Northville community; a liaison between the citizens of the community and the Senior Services program; and an advocate for the community and its governmental bodies on senior issues.

The nine-member commission includes three members who are city residents. It meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Northville Community Center.

This is a city resident position, serving a three-year term. Applicants must be a resident of the City of Northville for at least two years, be registered to vote in the city, and be able to demonstrate tangible evidence of his/her interest in senior programs. For more information, contact Pam Cameron at 248-305-2852 or [pcameron@twp.northville.mi.us](mailto:pcameron@twp.northville.mi.us).

**The Housing Commission** sets policy and provides guidance for the management of Allen Terrace, an apartment community for independent senior citizens aged 55 and over. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Allen Terrace.

Applicants must be a registered voter in the City of Northville and be a resident of the city for at least two years. For more information, contact Tracey Emmanuel at 248-349-8030 or [temmanuel@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:temmanuel@ci.northville.mi.us).

**Applications for any of these positions** will be accepted until the vacancy is filled and are available on the [City of Northville's website](#) or at the City Clerk's Office, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, MI, 48167. Completed applications should be returned to the City Clerk's office, which also contacts applicants to schedule interviews with the Selection Committee. All applications will be kept on file for future consideration.

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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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## **Now you can pay your parking ticket online**

If you need to pay a parking ticket, online payments are now being accepted. The traditional methods of paying - in person at the Police Department or at the Cashier's Office at City Hall, or by mail - are still available. Paying online includes a convenience fee by the third-party provider, but often saves time over mailing the payment or paying in person.

### **Pay your parking ticket online**

- Have your ticket handy to access the number and amount due (on front of ticket)
  - A convenience fee will be added
  - You can review the full amount, including fee, and confirm it before you submit your payment
  - [Click here to begin.](#)
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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 collected 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.

## Events / Things to Do



## **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 August 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.

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### **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.

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### **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 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

### 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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### 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.

## At Home

### 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.

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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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