



January 25, 2018

Meetings

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Meetings

City Council - Monday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m. - City Hall, Council Chambers

Planning Commission - Tuesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. - City Hall

Board of Zoning Appeals - Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m. - City Hall

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

This Just In...

Shawn Riley advances the work of the DDA



Photo by Liz Cezat

As a successful real estate agent and accomplished musician who is passionate about making Northville an even better place to live, work and play, Shawn Riley's role on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) puts him at the epicenter of where his expertise is best applied.

A City resident for 19 years who is a real estate agent and former office manager at Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, he first got involved as a concerned citizen when former Mayor Chris Johnson asked him to serve on the budget committee in 2010 to help the City find ways to increase revenue and decrease expenses during the recession. When that committee wrapped up in September 2011, he joined the DDA board at the invitation of past City Council member Michele Fecht.

DDA Director Lori Ward said, "He's really involved in the community and has a good feel for the downtown community. He is always giving back. It's nice to have someone involved in real estate on the board because it is a good fit with the retail component and the trend toward developing mixed-use buildings."

He chairs the DDA board and sits on three committees: the Executive Committee; the Marketing Committee, which he also chairs; and the Economic Development Committee, which stemmed from the Strategic Planning Steering Committee that he chaired.

The Executive Committee consists of City Manager Pat Sullivan, Mayor Ken Roth, City Council representative Marilyn Price, Vice Chair John Casey, Riley and Ward. There's a lot of research and collaboration conducted prior to those monthly meetings.

"The Executive Committee looks at everything going on in the City, and considers

how it will be presented to the DDA and the City Council at their separate monthly meetings," Riley said.

Of the Economic Development Committee, Riley is well qualified since he is a realtor, a manager of the Trudeau building (downtown Northville mixed-use building), and is overseeing the addition of an expanded second story to his Eaton Drive house.

On the home front, he had to present his remodeling project to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) because it involved a variance to the property easement. He and his wife Dorene spent a lot of time researching, compiling information and making a case before presenting it to the BZA.

"Being in this role (DDA board) ties in nicely with my business. I am a resource for people who are looking to live in Northville or buy a property in downtown Northville. I can guide them, and direct them to resources and other people to talk to," he said.

"The building process and zoning restrictions are in place for a reason," Riley said. "You don't want to rubber stamp everything that comes to town. Then you don't have the right look.

"My focus has been more on the marketing and events in downtown Northville and celebrating the businesses that are here," he said. He is proud to be working with talented professionals who volunteer on the DDA board. He cited the outstanding design work of architect and board member Greg Presley, who chaired the Design Committee that oversaw the redevelopment of downtown and Town Square.

Riley is among community leaders keen on coalescing a part of the City around the arts community and entertainment, and making that feature a hub. He notes that the arts sector has a good foundation with three theaters: Tipping Point, the Marquis and Genitti's, as well as summertime concerts in Town Square.

The music part of that scenario excites him. As a musician (guitar player and singer) in his eponymous band for 19 years, Riley plays in Northville's annual 4th of July parade and at various bars in town as well as for private parties and corporate events.

"We have a very creative population of designers, architects and musicians," Riley said. "We need to define ourselves as different from surrounding communities."

The DDA strategic study, completed in 2017, indicated that a boutique hotel or bed-and-breakfast site would work well in Northville. The big push is on expanding housing in the downtown area, beyond single-family houses. More residents in downtown would create a greater demand for places like a specialty grocery store and other household retailers.

"My goal," Riley said, "is to continue to improve the downtown and improve relationships with people from various organizations so we are on the same song

sheet. I have a fresh approach and I'm not afraid to suggest, 'Why don't we try it a different way.'"

He enjoys the DDA board, noting, "It's fun. It's challenging. I want to be the voice of my neighbors and of the community."

On a personal note, Shawn and Dorene have two adult children. Their son Colin is a teacher at Northville High School, a track and cross-country coach, and marathon runner; their daughter Clare works in events at the University of Michigan.

Commission has opening for volunteer member

The City has an opening for a qualified volunteer to serve on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors.

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.

Applications 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.

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 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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Volunteers needed for annual Rouge frog and toad survey

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) needs volunteers to participate in the 2018 annual Rouge frog and toad survey. You will learn the calls of the [eight local frogs and toads](#) and visit wetlands at night to identify what types are calling. FOTR's Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager Sally Petrella says the survey is a great way for residents to get to know more about local wildlife and wetlands while contributing to an important environmental evaluation process.

Friends of the Rouge started the survey in 1998 to involve local residents in collecting data about the health of Rouge River wetlands. The presence of frogs and toads is used as an indicator of wetland health as the animals disappear when wetlands are too polluted or destroyed. Diverse, healthy wetlands support diverse populations of amphibians.

Michigan has lost 60% of its original wetlands. The Rouge River Watershed contains portions of three counties: Oakland County, Washtenaw County and Wayne County.

The [survey results](#) have shown the greatest diversity of frogs and toads, and therefore the healthiest wetlands, in the less developed headwaters of the [Rouge River Watershed](#) and the lowest diversity in the urbanized portions.

Interested volunteers need to [pre-register](#) for ONE of three training sessions held on Saturdays in February and March. (All materials are provided at the workshop.) Volunteers are assigned to survey blocks within the Rouge River Watershed and required to visit them several times a month on damp warm nights, March through June.

Workshop dates ([register](#))

Sat. Feb. 17, 10 a.m. - noon

Canton Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, MI 48188

Sat. March 10, 2017 10 a.m. - noon

Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Sat. March 17, 2017 10 a.m. - noon

Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154

Events / Things to Do



Feb. 2

First Friday Experience

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Downtown Northville

Join us in Downtown Northville on the First Friday of each month for a special shopping, dining and artistic experience.

Our retailers stay open late and showcase new products and special trunk shows and offer limited time exclusive items or sales.

Our galleries showcase new exhibits, artists and pieces - often premiering them especially for this monthly event.

And don't forget the restaurants of Northville. Always great destinations, the bars and restaurants of Northville feature a wide-selection of cuisine from sushi to Mediterranean to American and Italian cuisine. Plan a date, gather a group of friends and come on downtown for the upcoming [First Friday](#).



ArtCrush

Join us for a magical night on the mezzanine in support of
the Northville Art House!
Featuring appetizers, an open bar, silent auction, and more

Saturday February 10th, 2018
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Cantoro Italian Market & Trattoria
15550 N. Haggerty Rd. Plymouth

Tickets on sale now until February 4th at
www.northvillearthouse.org
or in store at the Northville Art House
Tickets \$60

Event sponsored by
The Knickerbocker Group of Raymond James
and
Bandoni Creative, LLC

Northville Art House 215 W. Cady St. Northville, MI 248-344-0497
www.northvillearthouse.org
Gallery House: Tuesday - Friday 12 - 5, Saturday 12 - 4

Tickets are on sale through Feb. 4 and can be purchased online [HERE](#)

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

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).

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

Every Tuesday, year-round, a crew will come through each neighborhood and collect branches 6 feet long and up to 6 inches in diameter that are placed at the curb with cut ends facing the street. Residents may have to rake up small branches after the large brush piles are removed.

The City 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).

Before the next snowfall, apply brine to driveway and sidewalks

Help keep the Rouge River clear of dissolved rock salt by switching to a new de-icer method. Apply brine before a snowfall and shovel frequently to keep snow from accumulating and forming ice. City ordinance requires that sidewalks be cleared of snow within 24 hours of a snowfall.

Brine is a mixture of salt and water. A batch can be pre-mixed and stored in your basement. Here's the 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).

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.

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.

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

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