



April 26, 2018

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Meetings

Planning Commission - Tuesday, May 1, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

Board of Zoning Appeals - Wednesday, May 2, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers - City Hall

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

This Just In...

Mayor Ken Roth spoke about roads, horses & houses, and more at State of the Community luncheon



Photo by Liz Cezat

From left: Fire Chief Steve Ott, City Council Member Marilyn Price, Mayor Ken Roth, City Manager Pat Sullivan and City Council Member Patrick Giesa - pictured at the State of the Community event.

City of Northville Mayor Ken Roth provided a comprehensive overview of the City's challenges and opportunities during the annual State of the Community, April 18, at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center.

Business people, community leaders and guests attended the luncheon event hosted by the Northville Chamber of Commerce. Other speakers were Robert Nix, supervisor of Northville Township; Mary Kay Gallagher, superintendent of Northville Public Schools.

Some of the key points from the mayor's speech are detailed below. [Watch the video](#) for the full presentation.

On road infrastructure, the mayor said City Council is reviewing a recommendation by financial consulting team (Vettraino Consulting, and Municipal Analytics) to fund road repairs and replacement by securing a \$3.2 million bond (@ 3.5%) with funds generated by a 0.97 millage. If City Council approves a millage request, it will be placed on the November 2018 ballot.

Roth noted that the increased state funds this year will cover only a fraction of the cost of road replacement, with the bulk of the cost - now and in the near future - being the responsibility of city taxpayers. "Northville has to fix Northville," he said. Roth strongly urged that funds be spent to maintain a good standard of roads; otherwise the cost will be much higher to replace roads. Currently, Northville roads

are rated sub-par at 4.57; the goal is to be above 5.7 in the pavement condition index. (See the video for details.)

On the master plan, Roth shared news reports that Hunter Pasteur Homes was under contract to buy the Northville Downs property to develop it for single-family homes, apartments, condos and mixed use. He noted that the master plan will guide that development but emphasized that it's a private deal between the buyer and sellers. "It's day one of a new chapter," he said, adding that there are conditions between the seller and purchaser that will need to be met before a transfer of ownership occurs.

On communications, the mayor said work is underway to develop a new website that will make it easier for residents to get information and interact with the city online. He also noted that new signage directs visitors to the City of Northville from main feeder roads, including 8 Mile.

On pensions, Roth said the City is moving to a comprehensive model to reduce and fully fund legacy costs.

On water loss, the mayor cited an unacceptable loss of water from aging water meters and supply lines. While fees allocated on water bills fund a portion of this cost, more funds need to be directed to this infrastructure upgrade.

In closing, he said, "I look forward to working with you to keep Northville one of the best small cities in America."

The vision of Jay Wendt will continue to serve the city as new developments take shape



Photo by Liz Cezat

Jay Wendt takes stock of his 40 years on the Planning Commission Board. He stands outside the Northville District Library, where the lower-level overhang is being enclosed for meeting space.

What would prompt a business owner to invest 40 years of his free time as a volunteer to the City of Northville to ensure that builders and developers abide by ordinances? For Jay Wendt, retiring chair of the Planning Commission, it was based on an affinity for the city and a belief that new development should enhance a city.

"I try to be positive. There's give and take with ordinances; they have to adjust with the times. Developers often want things that go against the ordinances. It's the Board of Commissioner's job to work with them," said Wendt, who announced his retirement from the board at the April 3 meeting.

For nearly four years, he was the Planning Commission liaison to the Board of Zoning Appeals. His preference though was to create and uphold the standards rather than defend challenges.

Educated as a physicist, Wendt's occupation centered on sales. He owned an electrical supply company in Livonia, and sold it before retiring. As a board member, he was glad to be an outsider - one who didn't work as a developer, builder or in real estate. He would like to see that continue with the new board member who is appointed to the vacancy. (Applications will be accepted until May 18. - [view link.](#))

"People like Jay are the reason Northville is such a special place," said Pat Sullivan, city manager. "I can't imagine how many hours Jay has given us over 40 years, but it has to be rewarding for him to drive through Northville and see all the great

developments he's helped shape with his leadership. We'll miss him."

When he first came to Northville in the late 1970s, he brought a broader vision of what building standards and growth should look like. Sometimes that went against the grain of longtime residents who wanted the city to stay just as it was. When an ordinance was changed, he made sure there was some benefit for the city.

One of the most important, yet contentious building projects he was involved in was the school built in 2007 at Our Lady of Victory on Orchard Drive. The board spent about one year wrestling with the process of review, changes, objections and eventual approval.

He recalled the resistance of residents who didn't want a two-story structure in the neighborhood. Public meetings on the matter drew standing-room-only crowds. Residents got a chance to talk on the stage of the Northville Community Center for three minutes.

After two long nights of public comment, the Planning Commission considered those views and pored over the building plans to search for a compromise. The solution was to have one of the two stories become a lower level floor, partially built underground.

"We (the board) worked with neighbors and the church and almost everyone came out happy," Wendt recalls. He added that the mayor and city manager kept the process moving by being available to residents and the builder.

Working with developers on historic buildings - such as the New Victorian Building (on Cady) and Village Workshop - was a sweet spot for Wendt. Although the Historic District Commission regulates exteriors in the historic district, the Building Department ensures that standards are met inside and out.

"The (different) owners spent a lot of time making sure things were right and worked with the city," Wendt said.

Many may not know that a bowling alley occupied the corner where MainCentre, apartments by Singh, has resided since the 1980s. As a board member, Wendt was involved in the oversight of the new construction there.

Big changes are coming to the city, especially with Hunter Pasteur Homes under contract to buy the Northville Downs property for new residences (single-family homes, apartments and condos) and Cady Street primed for development. Wendt is proud of his advisory work on the master plan, which is shaping the direction of these landmark projects.

He predicts the Northville Downs redevelopment plan will take a lot of work with the Planning Commission and Building Department. He was one of the advocates for daylighting the river that is encased in concrete currently, and adding a public park along the waterway. (While this concept is in the master plan, details and costs

need to be worked out.)

As a board member, he advocated for bringing more technology to town. He wanted to convert outdoors lights to LED lights, and add camera-linked timing devices to traffic lights to keep traffic flowing. In addition, he is a proponent of installing solar panels on homes in a manner that is aesthetically acceptable. The new commission will have to carry the torch on those matters.

Events / Things to Do



Friday, April 27, 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronic Collection

Ford Field (Livonia) enter off Stark Road from Schoolcraft

Open to residents of Livonia, City of Northville and Northville Township

Items accepted: Household paints, stains, dyes; floor wax, carpet cleaner; furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, stain removers, solvents; pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only); nail polish, glue; fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides; antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline; automotive batteries and dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs (all types); fire extinguishers and smoke detectors; mercury thermometers, thermostats and elemental mercury.

Electronics Recycling - computer CPU's, monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, mice; cell phones, fax machines, copiers and televisions.

Items not accepted

Commercial waste, industrial waste, radioactive material, explosives, ammunition, 55-gallon drums, shock sensitive materials, household trash, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste and concrete. For information on how to dispose of these items, please contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734- 326-3936.

City of Northville residents who live in Oakland County are able to participate in this event.



April 27

5 - 9 p.m.

Girls' Night Out - Sweets & Treats

Gather your girlfriends and join in the fun for a

night of new merchandise, special offers, giveaways and fun in Downtown Northville. Businesses are staying open late and preparing a special event for [Girls' Night Out](#).

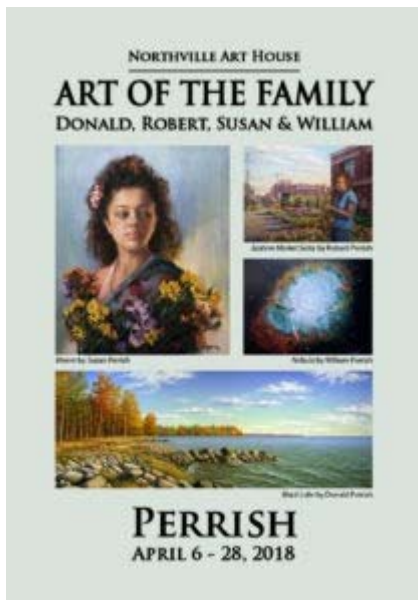
This popular event only happens twice each year. Take part in drawings and discounts at nearly 50 retail stores. From art galleries to boutiques, and home decor to jewelry, there's something for everyone.

After you've experienced the stores, unwind at one of 20 bars and restaurants. Everything is just a short stroll within the classic yet trendy downtown. There's also convenient, free parking. Many restaurants are offering specials for Girls' Night Out guests.



**April 28
9 a.m. - noon
Maybury State Park Annual Spring
Clean Up Day**

Help park staff and Friends of Maybury with a variety of projects to get the park ready for the spring/summer season. Meet at the Park Shop off Beck Road. Wear work clothes and bring gloves. Young adults must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian. RSVP to the Park Office at 248-349-8390.



**Through April 28
Art House Exhibit: The Art of the Family:
Donald, Robert, Susan and William
Perrish
215 W. Cady Street**

- **Art of the Family** features paintings and sculptures from a family of award-winning artists. The exhibition answers the age-old question of nature versus nurture by demonstrating the existence of both innate talent and learned skills in shaping the artist.

Donald, the eldest brother, has been drawing and painting his entire life. He attended the College for Creative Studies and is a freelance artist involved with fine art, murals and architectural art

design.

Robert studied art at University of Michigan. After 30 years in the commercial art business, his art has evolved from wildlife painting and sculpture into landscape and figure painting.

William, like his brothers, picked up drawing at an early age. Largely self-taught, he explores different mediums and subject matter, developing his skills with each project.

Robert's wife Susan grew up surrounded by music and art. Her mother is a talented watercolor artist and her father was a gifted woodworker. After the couple's children were grown, she found her artistic talent through drawing, specializing in soft pastel portraits.

Regardless of their beginnings and how their artistry is expressed, one common trait among each artist is a sense of passion for art. Works in the exhibition are available online at [Art of the Family](#).

Also on View - Photography by Michigan Emerging Artist, Katlan Michalak of Ann Arbor

The Art House is open Tuesday-Friday from 12 -5 p.m. and Saturday from 12 -4 p.m. 248-344-0497 or [visit our website](#).

It's time for Rouge Rescue 2018!



Spend a few hours with your friends and neighbors to improve the Rouge River and make a difference in your community.

Work days will be held across the region. Most sites will work on Sat. May 19. A few sites are working earlier and are listed below. Please [visit us online](#) or call 313-792-9621 for the most up-to-date list. Volunteers should wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, long sleeves, and long pants. Expect to get a little dirty, have fun, and meet others who care about the river. Free t-shirt provided to all participants (limited quantity at each site).

Every Thursday starting May 3

NORTHVILLE



Farmer's Market

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Located at the northwest corner of 7 Mile and Sheldon Rd.

Overflow parking is located at the Northville Downs Race Track, right across the street from the market.



Northville Historical Society 2018 Lecture Series
"Early Organized Crime in Detroit"
May 15, 2018

Though detectives denied it, the Italian mafia was operating in Detroit as early as 1900, and the city was forever changed. Bootleggers controlled the Detroit River and created a national distribution network for illegal booze during Prohibition. Gangsters, cops and even celebrities fell victim to the violence. Professor James Buccellato spent years researching and writing a book discussing the rise of organized crime in Detroit. Join us to hear this expert discuss this fascinating subject.



James Buccellato is a faculty member in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northern Arizona University. James taught in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI for several years. He researches and writes about the politics of crime. His work appears in peer-reviewed journals, crime anthologies and national news websites.

His book, Early Organized Crime in Detroit: Vice, Corruption and the Rise of the Mafia, was released on The History Press in late 2015. The book explores Detroit's struggle with gang violence, public corruption and the politics of vice during the tumultuous first half of the 20th century and includes rarely published images from the era.

The lecture will be at the New School Church at Mill Race Historical Village, 215 Griswold St, Northville at 7:00pm. The lecture is free of charge although donations are accepted at the door to help defray costs.

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 3:30 p.m.

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.

Need to pay delinquent personal property taxes?

Here's an easy way to make online payments for delinquent personal property taxes in Wayne County. [Click on this link to get started](#); note that convenience fees apply.

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).

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.

At Home

Free home fire safety review

The Northville City Fire Department 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. Call 248-449-9920 to schedule an appointment for this free service.

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

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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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