

# NORTHVILLE MATTERS



CITY OF NORTHVILLE 215 WEST MAIN STREET NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN 48167  
WWW.CI.NORTHVILLE.MI.US

## WINTER 2013

### Mailboxes

For those that have mailboxes next to the roadway, residents are asked to inspect the condition of their mailbox post to make sure it will stand up to the forces of heavy snow pushed against it by snow plows. The DPW often receives complaints from residents that we have knocked over their mailboxes. However, when we investigate, we often find that our plows did not actually hit the mailbox, but the snow pushing back against the mailbox actually caused the post to snap. Please inspect your mailbox post annually to ensure that it remains in good condition.

### COMPOST COLLECTION

Compost collection now ends on your last trash day in November. If you still have compost material, you are asked to keep it in your back yard until collection resumes in April 2014.

### HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION

Trash collection will not be delayed for residents during Christmas and New Year.  
Happy Holidays.....  
2014 trash delays will occur the weeks of Memorial Day (May 26th) and Labor Day (Sept. 1st) only.

### CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Christmas trees placed at the curb the first two collections after Christmas will be collected and recycled, provided they are free of any decorating material. After that, trees will be picked up at the curb weekly until January 21, but these trees will be sent to a landfill.

### 'Tis the Season for Water Main Breaks

As we approach winter and temperatures change from warm to cold, cities tend to experience an increase in water main breaks. This is particularly true in the City of Northville, which has a significant amount of old water mains placed in the early 1900's. If you see water bubbling or gushing out of the ground in your yard or the roadway, please contact the Public Works Department at (248) 449-9930 or after hours Community Dispatch at (248) 349-1234. 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.

And Potholes! Water from melting snow seeps into street cracks and freezes when the temperature drops, expanding with such force that it crumbles pavement. DPW will patch potholes in City Streets as they become aware, so please report potholes to 248-449-9930.

Did you know..... Northville residents dispose of a total of 4,000 pounds of household batteries each year? All household batteries contain harmful materials that pose a threat to our environment. Please place used batteries in a clear plastic bag in your recycling bin for proper disposal.

### SNOW AND ICE EVENTS

To stay within budget, Public Works drivers will be spreading less salt, less often during winter snow events. They will concentrate on major streets in our community, streets with steep grades and sharp curves and then collector streets through the neighborhoods. Except for intersections, local streets, courts, and alleys will see only minimal salt placement this year. Please be careful when driving on snow covered streets this winter.

Residents are asked to clear the sidewalks in front of, or adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snow or ice event. When clearing snow from sidewalk and driveways, please do not place it in the street. This is not allowed by City Ordinance and can be dangerous to motorists.

## CITY CLERK

### Dog Licenses

City Ordinance requires all dogs 4 months and older to be licensed. The annual license fee is \$12 (\$9 with documented spay/neuter) and you must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate at the time of application. Licenses are available at the City Clerk's Office. Want to register by mail? Visit the City's website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us) (go to Services/ Clerk/DogLicenses) to download an application. 2013 dog licenses expire February 28, 2014. Courtesy renewal notices for dogs licensed in 2013 will be mailed to registered owners by mid-January.



### Passports

The City of Northville is a passport application acceptance facility. Complete applications (including required documentation) are accepted Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, 215 W. Main Street. For information on the application process, including required documentation and fees, visit the City's website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us) (go to Services / Clerk / Passports) or call 248-349-1300 x1961.

## TAX DEPARTMENT

### General Property Tax Dates:

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Winter Taxes are billed and due as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. They may be paid to the City without penalty or interest thru February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** – Tax Day in Michigan is December 31<sup>st</sup>. All property, including construction in progress, is assessed as it sits on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Last Day to pay Winter Taxes without penalty or interest.

**February 28<sup>th</sup>** – Last day to pay summer and winter 2013 property taxes at City.

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Assessment Notices are mailed at the end of February, if you have not received yours by March 1<sup>st</sup> you should go online to the City's website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us), click on Services and then Tax & Assessing and then the Data Look-up Icon or contact the City Assessor's Office at (248) 449-9901.

### If you own a business:

**December** – Personal Property Statements are mailed to all registered business owners in December.

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Personal Property Statements are requested back to the City.

**February 10<sup>th</sup>** – Personal Property Exemption Affidavits are due back to the City.

**February 20<sup>th</sup>** – Personal Property Statements are due back to the City.

**February 28<sup>th</sup>** – Last day to pay 2013 property taxes at City.

### If you are purchasing or selling a home:

When you purchase a home you have 45 days from the date of purchase to file a Property Transfer Affidavit.

## AUTOMATIC / PAPERLESS BILLING OPTIONS

**Automatic Tax Bill Payment Option:** Residents and businesses may now pay their tax bills automatically. For the winter tax bill you designate the date of payment as either December 31<sup>st</sup> or February 14<sup>th</sup>. By taking advantage of this program, your taxes will always be paid on time whether you are sick or out of town. Added benefits are no checks to write, no need to wonder if the check was received in time to avoid penalty and no trips to City Hall. 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. If you have any questions regarding automatic bill payment for your taxes, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-449-9901. The form is available on our website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us) on the Tax and Assessing page.

**Online Account Information:** Tax, Utility and Permit customers can now access payment information on the City's website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us)

**Paperless Billing Option for Utilities:** Utility bill customers may now sign up to receive email bills. E-bills are emailed on the billing date with a full page bill attached in pdf format. Visit our website at <http://ci.northville.mi.us>. The sign up link can be found at the right side of the home page.

**Automatic Utility Billing Payments:** Now you can enjoy the convenience of having your bi-monthly City of Northville Utility Bill automatically deducted from your bank account. Your payment is withdrawn automatically on the due date, so there is no confusion. Best of all, we offer this service free of charge. Visit our website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us). The sign up link can be found on the right side of the home page.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Sidewalk Program

Each year the City does a certain amount of sidewalk improvements in our neighborhoods. Broken or sunken concrete and concrete slabs raised by tree roots are what we look for and replace. If you know of any sidewalk that is in need of repair or replacement, please call the Public Works Department at 248-449-9930.

### Capital Improvements

Hutton Street (Rayson to Dunlap)

A partial obstruction in the sewer line under the roadway will be removed and the sewer line repaired. Once the sewer line work is complete, the roadway will also be improved. Work is expected to begin in May with completion in June.

### Yerkes Pond Dam

The City has retained an engineering firm to design repairs to the Yerkes Pond Dam, which is also referred to as the Mill Pond Dam. This dam, which was designed and constructed for the Ford Motor Company in the early 1900's, needs concrete repairs to the downstream spillway, as well as the abutment walls on each side of the structure. Design work will be undertaken this winter, with construction expected in April or May of 2014.

### Street Lights

This past summer, the City of Northville, approved a program with DTE Energy to replace all of the Mercury Vapor and high wattage Sodium Vapor streetlights with new high efficiency Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlight fixtures. By the end of the year, approximately 170 streetlight fixtures will be replaced in our neighborhoods.

### **Please don't flush your medication!**

**Northville Township Hall (44405 Six Mile) has a free unwanted prescription drop box in the Police Department vestibule. No forms to fill out, no questions, totally secure, just drop them in the container. This box is accessible 24/7. Protect your identity, avoid accidental ingestion by pets and children!** The U.S. Government has found that 80% of watersheds contain low levels of at least one pharmaceutical chemical, with 50% containing seven or more. Wastewater treatment cannot filter out these chemicals.

**De-icing in the Winter** The first line of defense should simply be to shovel sidewalks and pathways to keep them clear and to prevent ice from forming. Salt and de-icers are not effective when more than 3 inches of snow have accumulated.

Consider the temperature. Salt and calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) have a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 25° Fahrenheit.

Apply de-icing products discriminately, focusing on high use areas and slopes where traction is critical. As snow piles up in the winter, we oftentimes turn to salt to melt snow and ice. Salt causes adverse environmental impacts, especially on our streams and rivers, our drinking water source in Metro Detroit. Excess salt can saturate and destroy soils natural structure and result in more erosion to our waterways. High concentrations of salt can damage and kill vegetation. Salt poses the greatest danger to fresh water ecosystems and fish. Studies have shown that as salt concentrations increase in a stream, biodiversity decreases. Excess salt can seep into groundwater and stormwater runoff. Effective ice control can help prevent excess salt runoff to our waterways.

Apply the least amount necessary to get the job done. This will save money in product costs and will also help minimize property damage to paved surfaces, vehicles, and vegetation.

Reduce salt and other chemicals by adding sand for traction. Plant native vegetation that is salt tolerant in stormwater drainage swales and ponds that may receive salt-laden runoff. Not only will these native species have a greater chance for survival, but they will continue to act as an effective buffer for our local waterways.

Store salt and other products on an impervious (impenetrable) surface, such as a basement floor, to prevent ground contamination. Also store products in a dry, covered area to prevent stormwater runoff.



**City Directory**

Allen Terrace	248-349-8030
Assessing Department	248-449-9901
Building Department	248-449-9902
City Manager	248-449-9905
City Clerk	248-349-1300
DDA	248-349-0345
Finance Department	248-449-9907
Fire Department	248-449-9920
Parks and Recreation	248-349-0203
Police Dispatch (non-emergency)	248-349-1234
Police	248-349-5100
Public Works	248-449-9930
Senior Community Center	248-349-4140
Tax Department	248-449-9901
Youth Assistance	248-344-1618

**Frequently Used Numbers**

Art House	248-344-0497
Chamber of Commerce	248-349-7640
Civic Concern	248-344-1033
Historical Society	248-348-1845
Library	248-349-3020
Mill Race Village	248-348-1845
Post Office	248-349-2062
Waste Management	800-796-9696

**Winter Steps to Clean Water**

*Clear sidewalks and driveways within 24 hours of a snow or ice event. Quick removal of snow diminishes the need for salt to melt ice that has formed from packed snow.*

*Less salt on sidewalks and driveways means less salt in storm water sewers and the Middle Rouge River.*

*Clean up after your pet.*

*Practice good car care.*

*Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners and chemicals*

