

NORTHVILLE MATTERS



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

WINTER 2015

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 find that our plows did not actually hit the mailbox, but the snow pushing back against the mailbox caused the post to snap. Please inspect your mailbox post annually to ensure that it remains in good condition.

COMPOST COLLECTION

Compost collection will resume April 4, 2016. Brush and branches placed at the curb are collected year around.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION

Trash collection will not be delayed for residents during Christmas and New Year. Happy Holidays.....

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 26th, 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.

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 must clear the sidewalks in front of, or adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snow or ice event. When clearing snow from the sidewalk and driveways, do not place it in the street. It is unlawful to shovel, plow or blow snow into the street or right-of-way (the grassy area between the street and sidewalk).

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 (go to Services/Clerk/DogLicenses) to download an application. 2015 dog licenses expire February 29, 2016. Courtesy renewal notices for dogs licensed in 2015 were mailed to registered owners mid-December.

March 8, 2016 Presidential Primary Election

The 2016 Presidential Primary is designated as a "closed primary," just as it was in 2012. This process, as outlined in Michigan Election Law, requires the voter to choose a Republican, Democratic, or no-Presidential Primary (local issues only, when applicable) ballot when voting absentee or at the polls on Election Day. While a voter must select a specific party ballot, there is no political party registration in Michigan's voter registration system. The ballot selection made by the voter will be public information after the election.

Precinct 1 (Wayne County): Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

Precinct 2 (Oakland County): Amerman School, 847 N. Center St.

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Persons offering to vote at the precinct on Election Day must show a photo id (i.e. current Michigan driver's license). Voters who do not possess picture identification may vote by signing an affidavit at the polls on Election Day.

Last Day to Register to Vote: February 8, 2016. Persons registering to vote in person must show acceptable photo id or sign an affidavit. Visit the website for possible voting restrictions if you choose to register to vote by mail.

Am I registered to vote? Where do I vote? Visit our website at www.ci.northville.mi.us (go to: Services/City Clerk/Elections) for a link to the Michigan Voter Information Center to verify your voter registration and polling location.

Absent Voter Ballot Information: AV ballots mailings will begin around February 1st. The office will begin issuing AV ballots over the counter beginning the week of February 22nd. **In-person Absent Voters must show a photo id** (i.e. current Michigan driver's license). Absent Ballot voters that do not possess acceptable photo id are required to complete an affidavit. Your AV ballot will be processed as a "challenged ballot."

Absent Voter Applications are available on the City's website at www.ci.northville.mi.us (go to: Services/City Clerk/Elections/Absentee Ballots).

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 re-

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 31st or February 16th. 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 on the Tax and Assessing page.

Online Payments & Account Information: Tax, Utility and Permit customers can now access payment information on the City's website at www.ci.northville.mi.us. Credit card payments are now accepted either online or at City Hall (fees apply).

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 www.ci.northville.mi.us. The sign up link can be found at the right side of the home page.

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 by December 1, 2015, 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

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.

General Property Tax Dates:

December 1st – Winter Taxes are billed and due as of December 1st. They may be paid to the City without penalty or interest thru February 16th, 2016.

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

February 16th – Last Day to pay Winter Taxes without penalty or interest.

February 29th – Last day to pay summer and winter 2015 property taxes at City.

March 1st – Assessment Notices are mailed at the end of February, if you have not received yours by March 1st you should go online to the City’s website at 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 1st – Personal Property Statements are requested back to the City.

February 10th – Personal Property Exemption Affidavits are due back to the City.

February 20th – Personal Property Statements are due back to the 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.

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.

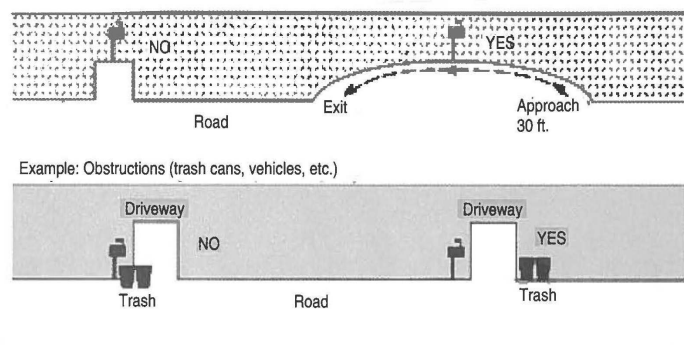
Consider the temperature. Salt and calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) have a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 25° Fahrenheit.

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. 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.

Clear in Front of your Mailbox

The Postal Service depends on residents with curbside mailboxes to meet postal requirements regarding delivery and collection of mail. Keep the full approach and exit to your mailbox clear, as illustrated below. Removing trash cans, snow and vehicles allows your carrier to deliver your mail safely and efficiently. If you have any questions, please contact the United States Postal Service.



City Directory

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Allen Terrace | 248-349-8030 |
| Assessing Department | 248-449-9901 |
| Building Department | 248-449-9902 |
| Cemetery | 248-305-2702 |
| 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 |
| 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.

Fix leaks on cars immediately.

Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners and chemicals

