

NORTHVILLE

WINTER 2017

Matters

City of Northville
215 West Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167

www.ci.northville.mi.us

Rural Hill Cemetery to open space for more gravesites

City Council approved Phase II expansion plans for Rural Hill cemetery at a special meeting on Oct. 2, allowing for ground improvements to a 1.2-acre section that will support up to 650 gravesites. The plan will add additional burial space that is expected to last for 15 years – through 2032.

The entrance to the scenic 20-acre cemetery is at Seven Mile Road, east of Rogers in Northville. Wetlands and a pond add to the natural beauty of the rolling land. There are more than 6,000 deceased buried in the cemetery, with markers dating to 1885. There is a Veterans' section, but other veterans have their final resting place next to their spouses and families in the cemetery.

To prepare the new section in the southeast portion of the City-owned property, an engineering study will be undertaken to update the original

plans developed in 2002. Several trees and existing stumps must be removed and the land will be graded. The road leading to the new section will be regraded and renewed with asphalt in one section and the rest remaining gravel. A water line will be extended by the Department of Public Works.

The estimated cost of the Phase II expansion allocated in the fiscal year 2018 budget is \$105,000, excluding the road cost. Fees for the plots are established annually and can be found on the website. There are approximately 44 burials each year.

City Council directed that all future fee revenues derived from the cemetery first be used for maintenance, with the balance split between capital improvements and perpetual



care. The latter cost maintains the cemetery when it no longer accepts new burials; the balance in that fund is \$983,000.

Those who want to see records of burials can visit City Hall. To read about the history of the cemetery, please visit our website.

Fire prevention tips for a safe and festive holiday season



The holiday season is a joyful time but certain activities and electrical- or flame-based decorations and accessories create an increased risk of home fires. With added awareness and simple adjustments to holiday cooking and home decorating, you can greatly reduce your risk of a home fire during the holiday season.

"Cooking, Christmas trees, candle usage and holiday decorations all significantly contribute to the seasonal causes of home fires," said Steve Ott, chief of the Northville City Fire Department (NCFD), which serves the cities of Northville and Plymouth.

Here are 12 safety tips:

Cooking tips

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries.

1. Stay in the kitchen while you're frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it.
2. Turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time. Use a timer to remind yourself when items will finish cooking.

3. Create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared or carried to prevent burns or other hot food-related injuries.

Candle safety

December is the peak month for candle fires, which are used more frequently in homes during the holidays. The nonprofit National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) statistics show that two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.

4. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over and are placed on uncluttered surfaces.
5. Remember to blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed. More than one-third of candle fires begin in bedrooms or other areas where people may fall asleep.
6. Never leave a child or pet alone in a room with a burning candle.

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City Hall winter closures:

Christmas Dec. 25-26	New Year's Day Jan. 1-2	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Jan. 15	Presidents' Day Feb. 19
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Notices

Dog licenses are up for renewal

All dogs four months and older must be licensed. The annual license fee is \$13 (\$10 with documented spay/neuter). Dog licenses for 2017 expire on Feb. 28, 2018.

You must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate at the time of application. Licenses are available at the City Clerk's Office. If you want to register by mail, please download an application from the website (Services/Clerk/Dog licenses).

Courtesy renewal notices are mailed to registered owners by mid January.



Financial Briefs

Automatic Tax Bill Payment Option – Residents and businesses may pay their tax bills automatically using Electronic Funds Payment (EFP). For the winter tax bill, you designate the date of payment as either Dec. 31 or Feb. 14 and must also pay Summer 2018 taxes by EFP. If you have questions, call the Treasurer's Office. The form is available on the website (Tax and Assessing page).

Online Payments & Account Information – Tax, utility and permit customers can access payment information on the City's website. Credit card payments are accepted either online or at City Hall (fees apply).

Paperless billing option for utilities – Utility bill customers may sign up to receive email bills, which are sent on the regular billing date with the bill attached as a PDF. Select this option on the City's website (left side of homepage).

General property tax dates:

Dec. 1 – Winter taxes are billed and due. They may be paid from Dec. 1, 2017 through Feb. 14, 2018, without penalty or interest.

Dec. 31 – Tax day in Michigan. All property, including construction in progress, is assessed as it sits on this date.

Feb. 14 – Last day to pay winter taxes without penalty or interest.

Feb. 28 – Last day to pay summer and winter 2017 property taxes at City.

March 1 – Assessment notices are mailed at the end of February. If you have not received yours by March 1, please check the website (Services, Tax & Assessing, data look-up) or contact the City assessor.

If you own a business:

January – Personal property statements are mailed to all registered business owners this month.

Feb. 1 – Personal property statements are requested to the City.

Feb. 10 – Personal property exemption affidavits are due.

Feb. 20 – Personal property statements are officially due.

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.

City finance reports available to the public

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 Dec. 1 each year that it has produced and made readily available to the public the following documents:

Citizen's Guide of its most recent local finances, including recognition of its unfunded liabilities

Performance Dashboard

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

Projected Budget Report of revenues and expenditures including, at a minimum, the current fiscal year and a projection for the following year and an explanation of the assumptions used for the projections.

These documents may be accessed at the website (Government/Transparency and Compliance).

Snow plows ready to clear winter snow and ice

When it snows, you'll find the City of Northville snow plows and trucks out to clear local streets. Typically, the plows begin removing snow on major streets such as Center, Main and Taft. The plows then move on to streets with steep hills and sharp curves, before tending to neighborhoods, parking lots, alleys and cemetery roads.

Wayne County plows snow from the streets of Griswold, 7 Mile, Northville Road, and 8 Mile, east of Taft. Oakland County is responsible for clearing snow on 8 Mile, west of Taft, and Novi Road.

Salt is used sparingly to avoid damage to roads and run-off into the Rouge River, but may be applied when conditions warrant it, especially at intersections.



When it snows, keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice

Residents and businesses must clear sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow or ice event. When clearing snow, it is against the law to blow or shovel snow into any roadway.

Prompt removal of snow reduces the need for salt, since the snow doesn't have time to harden. Using less salt on sidewalks and driveways results in less salt traveling to storm drains, which discharge into the Middle Rouge River. That keeps the river cleaner too.

Recycle your Christmas tree

Christmas trees will be recycled if they are placed at the curb Dec. 26-27 or Jan. 2-3. Any trees put out on or after Jan. 9 will be taken to the landfill.



Trash collection

Garbage collection will be delayed by one day after Christmas and New Year's Day. If your collection day is normally on Monday, it will be Tuesday; if it's normally Tuesday, it will be Wednesday.



While you're away, make sure your Northville home is safe and secure

Northville residents who head to warmer climates for the winter can take precautions to ensure their home is safe and secure while they are away. These safety tips apply primarily to free-standing homes although some also apply to those who live in condos or apartments.

Security

Notify the Northville Police Dept. of your vacation plans if you would like extra patrols around your home. You will need to complete a form (online or in person) that asks for contact information, the time period you will be away, who has access to your home in your absence, and a few other questions.

The City also offers a Knox Box, a small secure box installed near your entrance that contains a key to your home; only the Fire Dept. can open it in the event of an emergency. The box is designed to be used for years rather than a few months. There is a refundable deposit required.

"There are some simple things people need to do regularly to prevent them from being targets of robbery or break-ins. Keep car doors locked at all times. Keep doors to the house and garage locked. If someone gets into your attached garage, they can easily get into your home if the door to the garage is not locked," said Police Chief Mike Carlson.

Burglar alarms – All alarms must be registered with the Northville Police Dept. by completing a form that asks for your contact information and other details pertaining to your home's security.

Remote-controlled cameras – Imagine being able to see who comes to your door in Northville while you are lounging poolside. It can be done via a remote home monitoring system – search the internet for this topic for systems, pricing and recommendations.

Utilities

Turn down the temperature in your home, but not so low that a severe storm could freeze your pipes and cause a flood. Check with your utility company about the best setting for your situation.

To guard against flooding or frozen pipes, turn off the water at the main valve where the water enters your home and shut off water to your washing machine if it's on a different line. Draining the pipes in your home – best done by professionals – will further reduce the risk of frozen pipes and flooding inside your home.

Create a lived-in look

Set a couple timers to lamps that turn on and off in a natural progression; for instance, one timer turns off the downstairs lamp in the living room or kitchen before another timer turns on the light in an upstairs bedroom.



Consider keeping a talk radio channel on low so it appears that people are having a conversation inside your home.

Remote devices to monitor your home

Settings for a home sound system, lights and utilities can be done wirelessly using Apps and a smart phone or other internet-connected device. Search the web for "wireless home security, sound system, lighting and utilities" for articles and recommendations. Remote home monitoring devices are equipped to alert you to conditions in your home, but you still must choose a trustworthy person to handle any problems in your absence.

Snow shoveling – Make sure someone shovels your walkways and driveway. Northville ordinance states that new snowfall must be shoveled within 24 hours of when the snow ended.

Valuables – If you don't intend to take your valuables with you, lock them in a home safe or safety deposit box. Check with your banking institution.

Mail and newspaper delivery

- The Post Office will hold your mail for up to 30 days. You can have your mail forwarded to your winter address for an added cost.
- Ask someone you trust to collect your mail and forward the important pieces to you on a weekly basis. This same person can also collect your newspapers or you can stop delivery temporarily.

Online bill payment

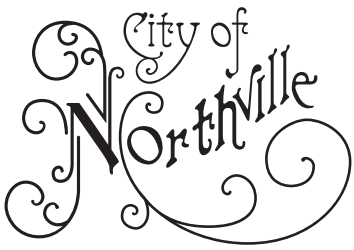
You may want to receive your bills online to reduce the amount of mail you receive. Note that property taxes for the City of Northville can be paid online (must be done for the full year) and also water, sewer and other regular payments can be done online for an added service fee.

Fire prevention tips ... continued from page 1

Christmas trees

U.S. fire departments respond to an average 210 home structure fires caused by Christmas trees each year, according to NFPA. Three of every 10 are caused by electrical problems, and one in four results from a heat source placed too close to the tree. Chief Ott offers the following advice for selecting a tree, where to place it and how to light it:

7. If you have an artificial tree, be sure it's labeled or certified as fire-retardant.
8. When selecting a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched. Before placing it in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and keep it full by tending to it daily.
9. Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit and is at least three feet away from any heat source, such as fireplaces, space heaters and heat vents.
10. Use indoor or indoor/outdoor lights on the tree with the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
11. Replace any string of lights that has worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
12. After Christmas, get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage. Take advantage of the City's tree pick-up program.



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Northville's Oakwood Cemetery has new historic marker and is open to the public

A new nationally awarded historic marker resides in Northville's Oakwood Cemetery, the final resting place of 35 veterans from the country's earliest wars along with early settlers.

Kathleen Ripley Leo, a member of the local branch of the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists (NSDAC), applied for the marker. The City received one of only five markers awarded by NSDAC in 2017.

The aluminum marker conveys the historical significance of the cemetery, which opened in 1835. The entrance is at Cady Street, west of Wing. It is open to the public from sun-up to sundown, year-round. For more information about the cemetery and its unveiling ceremony, visit the City's website.



Mayor Ken Roth addressed guests at the dedication ceremony on Oct. 8, 2017.

2017 highlights

All of these stories are on the City's website. Please use the search function to locate them.

- January** – AEDs were purchased for police vehicles.
- February** – City introduces online inspection scheduling for contractors. Twitter account goes live.
- March** – Work begins on Randolph Creek to dredge it, form new banks, remove contaminated soil and improve water flow.
- April** – Final site plan accepted to build 16-unit condo development at 314 N. Center; Northville Police has successful collection during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.
- May** – City Council extends the contract with Waste Management for five years, with first-year savings and an additional two weeks of compost collection.
- June** – Beautification Commission celebrates 50 years.
- July** – Charles Gevirtz survives cardiac arrest after Northville police use new AED.
- August** – Major road repairs are made to High Street, Elmsmere and Beck Road, from 8 to 9 Mile. East Cady has a plan created for future development.
- September** – The 150th anniversary of Northville's founding is celebrated at the Heritage Festival.
- October** – A national historic marker is installed at Oakwood Cemetery to commemorate veterans and settlers buried there.
- November** – Holiday season kicks off with new StoryVille book readings.
- December** – New website redesign gets underway.

City Directory

Allen Terrace.....	248-349-8030
Assessor.....	248-305-2704
Building Department	248-449-9902
Cemetery.....	248-305-2702
City Manager.....	248-449-9905
City Clerk.....	248-349-1300
Communications (print, online).....	248-305-2703
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/Treasurer.....	248-449-9901
Youth Assistance.....	248-344-1618

Frequently Called 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

www.ci.northville.mi.us

SIGN UP for City News

This e-newsletter is delivered electronically every Thursday. Learn about your city, local government and boards, people making a difference, and events around town. (Visit the Northville website home page and go to Quick Links on the left to request a copy in your inbox.)