

NORTHVILLE Matters

City of Northville
215 West Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167

www.ci.northville.mi.us

Reap the benefits of native plants and trees in your spring plantings

Now is a good time for gardeners to think about spring plantings. This is the season when retailers mail seed catalogues and send e-mail links to their online offerings so people can plan their vegetable and flower gardens, as well as landscaping.

Try to incorporate native plants, such as white pine trees, crab apple trees (they flower in the spring), purple coneflowers, tall grasses, choke cherry and junipers. If the planting is known to do well in Michigan's environment, given the climate and soil conditions, it doesn't need much water and is better able to resist disease.

Many neighborhoods are planning to update entrances to their subdivisions and streets. For small and large gardening spaces, boulders provide structure and a place for

climbing plants to snug up to. Having different heights of plants adds interest and depth. Don't line up plants and flowers like soldiers, instead, plant groups of three items together in a V pattern.

Soil erosion can be held in check by landscaping features – using the right combination of bushes, shrubs, ferns, trees and lawn. Adding fresh mulch in gardens and under trees also helps retain water and prevents loss of soil.

Water is a precious part of keeping things green and growing. Rain gardens are designed to redirect excess water back onto the landscape or into the ground, rather than



flowing into streets and storm sewers. While rain gardens are more prevalent in commercial landscaping, homeowners can also benefit from them in water-logged areas of their landscaping and lawns.

These tips just scratch the surface of gardening using environmentally friendly methods.

Residents who need mulch or woodchips for their landscaping can get it free from the City Yard, open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The yard is not open on the weekends. There is no limit and city employees will even help you load it into vehicles.

Household Hazardous Waste Events assist with spring cleaning

Northville residents can deposit hazardous waste materials (see list) at two events this spring.

1. April 22 (Saturday), Romulus Civic Center parking lot, 1111 Wayne Road, Romulus. *This is a Wayne County event, but open to all Northville residents.*

2. May (Friday afternoon, Saturday), Ford Field, Livonia (enter from Stark Rd., Northbound from Schoolcraft) See Northville's website and City News for the date as May draws closer.

Acceptable Materials

Kitchen/Bathroom

- Bug sprays
- Floor care products
- Furniture polishes
- Metal polish w/solvent
- Expired medicine
- Nail polish
- Drain openers & cleaners

Workshop

- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Cutting oils
- Glue (solvent based)
- Oil-based paint
- Latex paint
- Paint thinner
- Paint stripper
- Primer
- Turpentine
- Varnish

Garage

- Automatic transmission fluid
- Auto batteries (or battery acid)
- Brake fluid
- Car wax w/solvent
- Diesel fuel
- Fuel oil
- Gasoline
- Kerosene
- Metal polish w/solvent
- Motor oils
- Other oils
- Antifreeze

Garden

- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Pesticides

Miscellaneous

- Artists' paints/medium
- Fiberglass epoxy
- Gun cleaning solvents
- Rat poison
- Moth balls
- Household batteries
- Lighter fluid
- Pool chemicals
- Acids
- Propane tanks (1# & 20#)
- Mercury-based devices
- Aerosol cans
- Automobile paint

Electronics

- Computers, VCRs
- Printers & scanners
- Cell phones & Fax machines
- Keyboards & mouse

Monitors/TVs are no longer accepted.



Notices

Obtain a Garage Sale Sign permit before your next sale

If you are having a garage sale or yard sale and plan to advertise it with a sign, you will need a Garage Sale Sign permit. The permit is free and the application is available on the City's website or at the City Clerk's Office. Garage Sale Sign permits are valid for up to three days and there is a limit of three permits per year. You will need to provide the proposed sign locations when you apply for the permit.



The permit requires that signs:

- 1 must not be larger than 6ft²
- 1 may be put up no earlier than two days prior to the sale and removed within one day after the sale
- 1 be placed on private property only, with the consent of the property owner
- 1 can't be placed more than 500 ft. from the sale site
- 1 can't be placed on public property, including the public right-of-way (property between the sidewalk and street).

Police Department adds new life-saving tool

Northville has acquired five new Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) – three for first-time use by the Police Department and two for the Fire Department, which replace older AEDs. Police vehicles were equipped with the devices in January and officers were trained in their use. The new AEDs expand the services of the Northville Police Department by allowing them to use this life-saving technology when they encounter someone experiencing a heart attack. Joe Corriveau, a local attorney, paid for one of the AEDs.

Keeping you informed of City finances

To meet the requirements for Accountability & Transparency under City, Village and Township Revenue Sharing/County Incentive Program (CVTRS/CIP), the City of Northville provides the following information on our website:

- 1 A Citizen's Guide of the City's most recent local finances, including recognition of unfunded liabilities
- 2 A Performance Dashboard
- 3 A Debt Service Report containing a detailed listing of the City's debt service requirements.
- 4 A Projected Budget Report of revenues and expenditures including the current fiscal year and a projection for the following year.

Find this information at <http://www.ci.northville.mi.us/Government/TransparencyAndCompliance.asp>

Trash/Recycling Reminders

Put trash out by 7 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. Place trash containers and recycling bins on the lawn and not in the street.

Trash should be no larger than a 32-gallon size. Cans must weigh less than 50 pounds when filled.

Magazines, catalogues, phone books and glossy inserts are recyclable; place them in a paper bag or tie in a bundle. Paint must be dried solid (tip: use kitty litter to solidify).

Yard waste and compost collection will resume on April 3 and 4. Set compost at the curb in large yard waste paper bags or in a garbage can without the lid. Label as compost or use a sticker, which can be obtained in the City Hall vestibule for free.

Trash collection will be delayed by one day the weeks of Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

Go to www.ci.northville.mi.us/Services/PublicWorks/PublicWorksOverview.htm for more information.



Contractors save time by scheduling online inspections

Saving time and getting quick confirmation on building inspections are just two of the many reasons that contractors will want to set up an account on the Access My Government (AMG) website (www.accessmygov.com). It is a tool for the trades: electricians, mechanical contractors, and plumbers that do residential and/or commercial work in the City of Northville. Builders can also use the system.

Contractors must first register in person at City Hall to begin doing business in the City; then they can use the AMG website for inspections and permits. The City expects contractors and builders to use the online system exclusively, starting in early March. This saves staff time in answering phone calls and scheduling inspections.

Inspections must be scheduled by 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, if requesting next-day service, which may not always be possible. Inspectors' results are available online.

For questions about the AMG website, call Shari Allen at 248.449.9902 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Residential property transfers

If you have just purchased a home, you have 45 days from the date of purchase to file a Property Transfer Affidavit, per Michigan law.

Assessment Notices were mailed at the end of February. If you have not received your notice, values are available online at the City's website (www.ci.northville.mi.us) click on Services, Tax & Assessing, then the data look-up button or contact the City Assessor's Office at 248-449-9901.

March 13 - 15 – The Board of Review meets to review the Assessment Rolls and hear petitioner appeals. You must have an appointment; call the number listed above.

Principle Residence Exemption Date

The taxpayer must own and occupy the property as their primary residence as of June 1 to receive the 18 mill exemption from school operating tax. Please submit the Principal Residence Exemption form when you buy a home to avoid a higher tax bill.

Do your part to keep storm drains clear of pollutants

With heavy rains in winter 2017, Northville experienced a higher than normal water flow into storm sewers. Storm sewers are grated openings along curbs, in streets and parking lots that lead to 12" diameter pipes where rainwater and snowmelt drain. The water is channeled through a system of pipes that carry it to the Randolph drain, the Johnson Creek drain, and the Middle Rouge River. From there, it goes into the Detroit River.

It's drawn back out of the Detroit River, filtered through the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and sent back to Northville for drinking, cooking, personal use and residential watering.

You may think there's not much you can do to control what gets into the storm drains. Surprisingly, there are simple procedures to follow to help keep the storm drains free of toxic fluids and sediment, which is the greatest pollutant by volume of our lakes and streams. Never dispense chemicals, pet waste, fertilizer or other toxins into a storm sewer. Nearly everything that goes into a storm sewer ends up in our waterways.

Soil erosion causes sediment to seep into storm sewers. The trend toward bigger houses is a culprit in soil erosion. Houses of 4,000 ft² or more take up more land, which results in fewer trees and shrubs that help retain soil. During construction, there's a lot of runoff into the storm sewer from displaced soil. Because of this, a permit is required to make sure the builder follows rules and procedures to prevent severe soil erosion.

One of those procedures is to temporarily put a screened cover over the storm sewer so the sediment can be swept off the cover, allowing only water to drain. After the house is built and the soil has settled with a new lawn and landscaping, it's the permit holder's responsibility to remove the screen from the storm sewer.

Here are some steps you can take to keep storm drains free of pollutants:

- 1 Mow high – Keep grass about three inches tall so it requires less water, has stronger roots and fewer weeds.
- 1 Select fertilizers with slow-release nitrogen and little to no phosphorus.
- 1 Sweep or blow fertilizer from paved surfaces, such as sidewalks and driveways, back onto the lawn.
- 1 Use mulch. Place a thick layer of mulch (about four inches) around trees and plants. This helps retain water, prevents weeds and reduces the need for pesticides.
- 1 Select plants native to Michigan. Native plants are better equipped to tolerate Michigan's climate, require less fertilizing, and are disease resistant. (See related article on page 1).

If you have any questions about storm drains or permits, please contact the DPW office at 248.449.9930.

Road reconstruction to begin in Spring

As part of the City's ongoing road improvement program, two main residential streets will be repaired in 2017 with new curbs and sidewalks and a third street in the business district will be designed with specifications for eventual construction.

On High Street (W. Main to W. Dunlap), the asphalt road will be repaved and new curbs and sidewalks will be installed. On Elmsmere (E. Chigwidden to Coldspring), the concrete road and sidewalks will be redone with either concrete or asphalt, based on the designers' recommendations.

On E. Cady, the street will be designed, but not developed until after new building construction is erected and completed on the south side of the street. The City's master plan envisions residential, retail and commercial or light industrial usage of that property, which is currently owned by Northville Downs along with a small portion owned by the City.

A design contact for \$40,100 was awarded to Beckett and Raeder, of Ann Arbor, to design and oversee construction management on these three streets. After the design is completed, requests for bid will be sought for road construction, with the award going to the lowest priced, qualified bidder. Road construction on two of the three projects is slated to begin in spring and be completed by the end of summer.



This drainage pipe deposits excess storm water into the Middle Rouge River behind Northville Cider Mill.

Dispose of old medications at City Hall

**One-day only:
Saturday, April 29
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

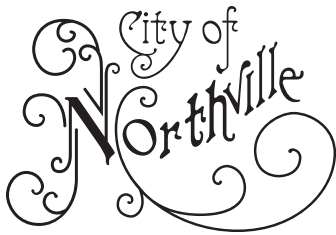


The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has approved the Northville Police Department as one of 400 sites that will have a collection box for prescription drugs that are expired, unused or not needed. The National Take-Back Initiative Day is Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Police Department lobby (lower level of City Hall, 215 West Main St.). There is lot parking, with limited space, across from the department's south-facing entrance.

Look through your medicine chest, drawers and cabinets for medication that is no longer needed. The event will not accept any liquids or needles. By safely disposing of old or unused medication, you help prevent accidental ingestion by children, teens and pets who either live in your home or may be visitors. Medications that lower high cholesterol, treat diabetes, or regulate heart conditions, such as angina, can cause poisoning in young children who accidentally ingest them. Teens may be attracted to opioids, so if you no longer need them, please dispose of them safely during this event.

Why not flush them down the toilet? They eventually end up in the water supply and could become part of our drinking water if they are not filtered out at the water treatment facility. If you throw old medication away, it could be ingested by wildlife at the dump or birds from the landfill.





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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.)



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Northville City Hall is on Twitter @NorthvilleCity. Follow us on Twitter and invite others to do the same.
<https://twitter.com/NorthvilleCity>

Newsletter gets new look

Northville Matters has been redesigned to make it quicker and easier for residents to find news relating to City services. Photos and graphics will draw your eye to important stories. A vibrant layout reflects the City's goal of providing concise, organized and nicely designed materials to communicate with residents.



The newsletter covers issues and matters that impact residents, such as household utilities and maintenance, neighborhoods, roads, the environment, ordinances and finances (taxes, assessments and fees).

We hope you will find this redesigned issue attractive and easy to read. Let us know your comments. Please e-mail Liz Cezat, communications manager, at lcezat@ci.northville.mi.us.

This quarterly newsletter is mailed to all postal addresses in the City of Northville.

City Directory

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
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.....	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