

NORTHVILLE

Matters

City of Northville
215 West Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167

www.ci.northville.mi.us

Senior Advisory Commission makes big impact

Northville has a robust Senior Services Program that includes holiday meals; day trips; curb-to-curb transportation; special programs on health, fitness and financial matters; weekly movies; and daily opportunities to exercise and socialize with other seniors. The tour de force behind these offerings is not only an experienced and dedicated staff, but also the volunteers who serve on the Northville Senior Advisory Commission.

The nine members on the board consist of three residents each from the City and Township, two elected officials and one school board member. The board members are Andrea Murdock (City), chair; Dory Schmidt (Township); Jan Valade (City), vice chair; Lesa Buckland (City); Patrick Giesa, City Council liaison; Robert Lipmyer (Township); Mindy Herrmann, Northville Township trustee; Jan Purtell (Township), secretary; and Angela Jaafar, Northville School Board member.

The commissioners provide input and vote on agenda items set forth by Senior Services Supervisor Christy Mattson and Northville Parks and Recreation Director Mark Gasche. They oversee administrative matters such as the budget, grants, programming and facility utilization.

The commission meets monthly on the third Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Northville Community Center. The public is invited to attend.

Services extend to seniors 55 and older—2,160 in the City of Northville and 8,416 in the Township. Seniors throughout the region are also welcome to attend programs and events.



From left: (standing) Dory Schmidt; Mindy Herrmann; Lesa Buckland; Mark Gasche, ex-officio; Robert Lipmyer; Mayor Brian Turnbull (standing in for Patrick Giesa); and Christy Mattson, ex-officio; (seated) Andrea Murdock, Jan Valade and Jan Purtell. Not present: Patrick Giesa, Angela Jaafar. Photo by Joan Meyer

Continued on page 3

New mayor, new council member bring change to city leadership

In the Nov. 5 City election, Brian Turnbull became the new mayor with 64 percent of the vote, winning the seat from two-term Mayor Ken Roth, with 2,103 total votes cast. The race for City Council was tight with the election of newcomer Barbara Moroski-Browne and

Marilyn Price retaining her seat, as candidate Joseph Corriveau narrowly lost.

The elected officials were sworn into office by 35th District Court Judge Michael Gerou at a special Nov. 12 City Council meeting the day after Veterans' Day.

Roth thanked his colleagues on City Council for four great years of camaraderie, collaboration and working to solve difficult issues. He conveyed his appreciation for their support and help. He also thanked City Manager Pat Sullivan for "being a great asset to the City in his judgement, experience and guidance."

Outgoing City Council Member Nancy Darga presented a proclamation to Roth, citing his 20 years of service to the City of Northville – not only for his four years as mayor but also for his work on City commissions and boards, and leadership roles on the Northville Public Schools Board of Education.

After taking the oath of office, Mayor Turnbull thanked outgoing Mayor Roth for his "time, talent and devotion to the City." He also thanked Nancy Darga for her work at the city, county and state levels. He notified Marilyn Price that she would become mayor pro tem (approved at the next meeting by Council).

New Year's message from Mayor Turnbull

"I am honored to help lead our city into an exciting New Year. Now is the time to advance our goals for what we want Northville to be in the years to come— from thoughtful development and commercial and retail business growth to infrastructure improvements and greenspace enhancements. Keep in mind our historic past as we live in the present and create a great future for Northville. We will move our town forward . . . together!



NOTICES

Financial Briefs

Online property information and payments

View your tax, assessing, utility and permit property information on the City's website (Online Property information and payments). You can sign up for automatic payment of taxes and utilities, request to receive your utility bill via email, make payments by credit card or e-check, and view your payment status.

General property tax dates

Feb. 14 – Last day to pay winter 2019 taxes without penalty or interest. On Feb. 15, a 3% penalty will apply.

March 1 – Assessment notices are mailed in mid-February. If you have not received yours by March 1, please contact the City assessor.

March 2 – Last day to pay summer and winter 2019 property taxes at the City. On March 3, delinquent amounts will be turned over to the County for collection.

March – Board of Review public hearings and deliberations. Dates will be posted.

Please note: Winter 2019 tax bills that were mailed in late November had the wrong due dates, which prompted a second mailing in December. Compare your tax bill to the correct due date/deadlines (shown above) to make a timely payment and avoid penalties and interest. If you have any questions, call 248-449-9901.

Business owners

January – Personal Property Statements were mailed the first week in January. If you filed a Small Business Affidavit in 2019 on time and it was accepted, you will not receive a personal property statement due to recent changes in property tax laws.

Feb. 20 – Personal property statements or exemption affidavits are due to the City assessor.

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 annually 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).

Dog licenses

All dogs four months and older must be licensed. Dog licenses for 2019 expire on Feb. 29, 2020. The annual license fee is \$13 (\$10 with documented spay/neuter).

A current rabies vaccination certificate is required with the application. Apply at the City Clerk's Office in person, by mail or online. To register by mail, download an application from the City's website (Services/City Clerk/Permits and Licenses).



DPW gears up to clear snow from streets

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 Griswold, 7 Mile, Northville Road, and 8 Mile, east of Taft road. 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.

Keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice

Property owners (residents and businesses) must clear sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow or ice event, by ordinance. When clearing snow, it is against the law to blow or shovel snow into any roadway.

The DPW only clears sidewalks that are on City-owned or operated properties, such as those at City Hall, the Fire Station and cemeteries.

Prompt removal of snow reduces the need for salt. That means less salt travels to storm drains, which discharge into the Middle Rouge River.

Presidential Primary Election March 10, 2020

The Presidential Primary is a "closed primary." Michigan Election Law requires the voter to choose a Republican ballot, Democratic ballot, or ballot without Presidential Primary when voting by absent voter ballot 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 is public information after the election.

Facts at a glance:

Polls open: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

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

Photo ID requirement – Registered voters may show their current Michigan driver's license or state identification card when they vote at their polling place. Voters not in possession of photo ID may vote after signing an affidavit.

Am I Registered to Vote? Where do I vote?

To learn the answers to these questions and more, visit the Elections and Voting section of the City website. In addition to checking your voter information, you can also view and print a sample ballot.

Planning Commission moves forward with FAR and Master Plan review

Several recent Planning Commission meetings covered topics that will impact Northville residents in the short term and long run – both on residential streets and in building decisions that will shape areas south of downtown.

An ordinance is in the works to include a new Floor Area Ratio (FAR) requirement for single and two-family homes that's intended to limit the mass of residential dwellings proportion to the lot size, and better fit the existing residential fabric of the community. The majority of lots in R-1B and R-2 have areas of 7,200 ft² or greater; however, approximately 10% of lots are small: 6,000 ft² and under, according to data from the City assessor's office. The new requirement will allow for a slightly higher FAR on small lots to account for modern trends in home construction.

Based on public input and commission discussion, the Planning Commission is considering provisions for small lots; adding covered side/rear porches in the FAR calculation; excluding uncovered decks from the FAR calculation; and ensuring that existing homes (at the time of the ordinance adoption) maintain the existing footprint and FAR. Once the draft ordinance is finalized, it must be approved first by the Planning Commission, then by City Council.

Master Plan Review process

A Planning Commission subcommittee was established in December to discuss the public input process to review three sub-areas in the Master Plan – Cady Street and Cady Town, the Racetrack area, and S. Center Street.

The Master Plan Update will be developed through a process that blends commissioners' professional expertise with citizens' knowledge and input to yield a more refined Master Plan vision for these parts of the city.

The subcommittee is charged with reviewing all aspects of public input, including surveys, workshops, focus groups, and similar events and techniques. Members of the subcommittee will work in tandem with City Planner Sally Elmiger to develop a recommendation to the Planning Commission, which will make the final determination regarding the input process.

Factors being reviewed in the Master Plan Update include the role, amount and location of commercial along E. Cady St.; density; design elements of new buildings and structures; traffic flow and safety; parking; streetscape improvements; architecture; and stormwater management.

The sub-areas of the Master Plan were reopened in August 2019 based on new information regarding the flood plain, traffic impact studies and other matters presented by consultants for Hunter-Pasteur Homes – the developer that withdrew a proposal for the Downs property.

The public is encouraged to attend Planning Commission meetings. Materials to be presented at the meeting are posted on the website the Saturday before the meeting (first and third Tuesday of the month). To stay informed about meetings and decisions, visit the City's website for agendas, minutes and news articles.



A northern view of the Downs property. Photo by Liz Cezat

City-wide water meter replacement program gets underway

The City of Northville recently began a city-wide water meter replacement program that will exchange older, noisy and less accurate water meters with new water meters. Second water meters will also be switched over if used exclusively for outdoor use, such as directing water to an inground lawn sprinkler system.

"The majority of water meters in the City are 20 years old or older and have reached the end of their projected life cycle," said DPW Director Loyd Cureton. "Our department personnel will manage and work with the contractor and residents to ensure the work is done properly and efficiently."

Ferguson Waterworks and Utility Metering Solutions is the vendor performing the installation. A worker will need to enter a house or business to replace the meter and upgrade the wiring, which takes about 30 minutes to one hour. The worker will also replace the touch pad currently located on an outside wall with a new meter interface unit (MIU). For security, the vendor's workers will carry identification and drive vehicles with the company's name.

The City mailed letters to residents in December announcing the replacement program; if you have any questions, please contact the DPW department or visit our website.



Senior Advisory Commission...continued from page 1

The annual budget for the 2020 fiscal year is \$294,890 and covers staff as well as programming. Vendors, whose sponsorship adds up to \$5,000 annually, offset the cost of food and entertainment at various events. Grants for the senior program are provided through the Senior Alliance (\$6,200 annually).

Transportation by shuttle is a big part of Senior Services. SMART, St. Mary Mercy Livonia and The Senior Alliance (TSA) contribute \$36,422, \$10,000 and \$3,705 annually, respectively, to this popular program that provides affordable, dependable rides to seniors age 60 and older and disabled individuals of any age. In 2019, approximately 3,400 curb-to-curb trips were taken – enabling riders to go to medical

appointments, run errands, and visit friends and family locally. Taxes are used to fund about \$30,000 of the cost. The balance is covered by ridership fares and a percentage of day trip fees.

The home base for most activities is the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main in the City, which includes a large gym, banquet room, a gathering space with a fireplace, and plenty of meeting rooms. The Frank Lloyd Wright-style interior is a pleasant home away from home for an estimated 80 seniors who visit daily for classes, programs and socializing. An additional 52 people, on average, come for the fitness and exercise programs.

The big annual events may change by the year but include the Senior Fest in June; the Thanks-

giving luncheon in November; the Holiday luncheon in December; and often a lunch or concert around Valentine's Day and/or St. Patrick's Day. Commissioners assist with serving the buffet meal at these events. With attendance growing, the Commission is exploring options to accommodate more seniors at future luncheons.

Giving back to the community is one of the reasons cited by commissioners for getting involved. Volunteers who engage well with seniors and meet residency requirements are invited to apply for a seat on the commission. Applications are available on the Boards and Commissions page of the City's website, or apply in person at City Hall.

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2019 Highlights/News Summary

January – Judge David Allen rules favorably toward Northville School District’s plan to demolish Main Street school without undergoing a review by the City’s Historic District Commission.

February – The City vacates the undeveloped Horton street right-of-way between Hill and Maplewood streets as an extension of its earlier decision to vacate the southern portion.

March – Finances were approved to upgrade the City’s computer system with 31 desktop computers, Microsoft Windows 10, and two new servers. // Northville Parks and Recreation Dept. moves its offices temporarily during Hillside School’s reconstruction to the Northville Township Municipal building.

April – The Northville Fire Dept. takes delivery of a new fire engine (#1711), which replaces a 1988 Pierce fire engine. // The Planning Commission determines that the residential/mixed-use project proposed by Hunter-Pasteur Homes for the Downs property meets the PUD eligibility criteria.

May – A water main break near Hillside School prompts the City to issue a Boil Water Advisory.

June – The Planning Commission refers the Preliminary PUD and Site Plan application back to the developer to allow them to address comments from the Commission, public and planning consultant. // The Local Historic District Study Committee recommends the final draft of the Local Historic District Study Report (Historic District Survey) to City Council for adoption, as revised. City Council has one year to review, revise, and adopt the Study Report.

July – Acoustic music concerts enter their second year, sponsored by DDA.

August – Cemetery expansion is complete. // The Master Plan Update to review three sub-areas was approved by City Council. // The developer withdraws its proposal for a residential/mixed-use project at the Downs property.

September – Street reconstruction saw eight streets repaved or reconstructed. // Heritage Festival is a success, however the Victorian parade was cancelled – one of the first times ever – due to a severe storm.

October – Skeletons are Alive has a banner ninth season, drawing thousands to the City to view some of the 120 skeleton vignettes on display. // Northville Art House begins process to become a 501 c (3). // Police begin using body-worn cameras.

November – Voters elect Brian Turnbull as mayor and Barbara Moroski-Browne to City Council, and re-elect Marilyn Price to City Council. // Watermark Residential presents a conceptual plan for apartments/mixed use development on Cady Street to the Planning Commission.

December – The holiday season caps a good year for Northville merchants.

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
Community Center.....	248-305-2731
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
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

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The Northville City Fire Department, which serves the Cities of Northville and Plymouth, is conducting a Firefighter Training Academy. Twenty-two students enrolled in the Academy, which began Nov. 5 and continues through April. Graduates who pass the State certification exams will be qualified to be Firefighter I and II, and may apply for employment with the Northville City Fire Dept.

Stay informed.

Sign up today!

City News, a weekly e-newsletter
<http://tinyurl.com/gpw15lf>

Nixle, alert system by text Nixle.com

Visit the City website for news and developments.

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