

# NORTHVILLE

## Matters

City of Northville  
215 West Main Street  
Northville, Michigan 48167

[www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us)

### City Hall updates and downtown businesses re-open

Northville City leaders have opened City Hall for employees to return to work after having worked from home. Plans are being made to reopen the building to the public. Until then, appointments will be scheduled to conduct business that can't be done online, by phone or by mail. A new drop box is being installed in the circular drive. The transition from online to in-person meetings for City Council and boards will follow the governor's guidelines.

City Council unanimously approved the "Reopening Downtown Special Event" at a special meeting on June 5 to help jump-start sales for restaurants and retailers that had been operating at reduced capacity or closed since mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The special event creates a pedestrian mall with expanded outdoor seating for restaurants and merchandise displays by retailers on N. Center Street from Main to Dunlap and E. Main between Hutton and Center. The special event requires those streets be closed to traffic when the majority have their outdoor liquor license (likely in June) until Sat., Oct. 31 (Halloween). This enhanced space allows for social distancing as businesses welcome back customers. The City is taking special measures to protect people's health and safety during the pandemic. For the most up-to-date operational news, please refer to the City website (see special COVID-19 page and news articles), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and City News.

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### Roads, water mains get needed upgrades



The City of Northville's road reconstruction and rehabilitation program began in early May after a delayed start due to COVID-19. Work on critical infrastructure was allowed by the State but the City needed to adjust scheduling for water shut-offs and removal of lead lines.

Road construction firm Nagle Paving started work on Baseline Rd., Coldspring Drive, Sherrie Lane, Stanstead Rd. and Summerside Lane – which took advantage

of fewer cars being on the road. At that same time, Bidigare Contractors began installing a new 8-inch water main on N. Rogers, which extends from Potomac St. to W. Main. The Ford Field parking lot has been redone. Residents in construction zones are being notified of any disruptions to access of their streets, driveways or water via door hangers and City communications (website, City News and social media posts). The City's engineering consultants Fleis & VandenBrink maintain a web page of projects in progress; view it here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycnf7bxs>.

The following roadwork will begin this summer and some of it will finish in the fall:

- Baseline – mill and overlay from N. Center to Novi St.
- Coldspring – mill and overlay from Coldspring Dr. to McDonald Dr.
- Sherrie Lane – mill and overlay from Jeffery Dr. to Hillridge St.
- Stanstead – full reconstruction from Battleford Lane to Elmsmere Dr.
- Summerside – full reconstruction from Battleford Lane to Elmsmere Dr.

Bidigare Contractors will be replacing water mains on these streets this summer: High St. from Randolph to W. Dunlap; W. Cady St. from S. Wing to S. Rogers; and Grace Court from Maplewood to dead end.

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### DDA builds a better business district

When you're the owner of a small business, you need all of the support you can get. Time spent creating the physical structure of your business (inside and out), stocking it with goods, advertising your wares, establishing a robust website, ringing up sales and tracking inventory are just some of the tasks and challenges. It's nice to have a partner, someone who has your company's best interest at heart and wants to see you succeed.

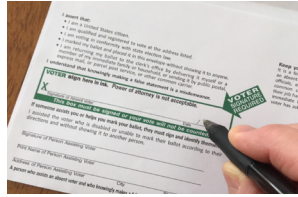
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# Notices

## Consider voting by mail – a safe way to vote and protect your health

All registered voters in Michigan have the right to vote by mail without providing a reason. Applications were mailed to voters on the automatic application list the week of June 1. In addition, the Secretary of State mailed absent voter ballot applications to all voters that are not on the automatic application list. The application is good for both the Aug. 4 and Nov. 3 elections. Complete and return your application to have your ballot mailed to you. Applications are also available online – <https://tinyurl.com/y8sqj4sf> and in the City Hall 24-hour vestibule.



### Election Day Facts at a glance:

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

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

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

### Am I registered to vote? Where can I view the ballot? Do I need a photo ID?

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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please monitor the City website, City News, and social media for any State-mandated updates that pertain to voting in the August Primary.

## City will adjust utility rates on July 1

Northville residents have the benefit of timely, cost-effective City services that keep neighborhoods and the entire City operating smoothly – from weekly trash pickup to providing clean water and safely disposing of sewage.

The refuse and recycling program is a weekly service that includes household trash pick-up, recycling and brush chipping, and seasonal fall leaf pick-up and composting. The meter replacement program replaces aging water meters throughout the City. To defray the cost of reading meters and the billing process, the City implements a service charge. The rates for these services are reviewed and adjusted annually. New rates on the chart will take effect on July 1, 2020.

Service	Current rate	Rate on July 1	Frequency
Water	\$10.05	\$10.35	Per unit *
Sewer	\$7.15	\$7.51	Per unit *
Service charge	\$3.67	\$3.67	Bi-monthly
Meter replacement charge	\$6.67	\$6.67	Bi-monthly
Refuse and recycling	\$39.60	\$40.10	Bi-monthly

\*1,000 gallons

## Water meter program resumes

The City of Northville is more than midway through a City-wide water meter replacement program to install new water meters and also replace second water meters used exclusively for outdoor use. Installations were suspended due to an executive order by the governor, but they are expected to resume soon.

If you haven't yet had your old water meter replaced with the new Neptune brand, you will be contacted by UMS, the City's vendor, to schedule an installation. During the installation, a UMS worker will 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.



There is minimal in-person contact during an installation but residents can wait a bit longer if concerned about personal health during the COVID-19 pandemic. For health safety measures, the vendor's workers will wear a mask and wipe down any surfaces they touch. For security, they carry identification and drive vehicles with the company's name.

For more details, view "Frequently Asked Questions" on the DPW water meter web page. If you have any questions or concerns about scheduling your appointment, please contact Mike Domine, DPW assistant director.

## Keep sewers flowing, don't flush wipes

So-called flushable wipes are prone to clogging sewer systems at residences, condos and apartments, costing residents and building owners hundreds of dollars in repairs. When a large quantity of wipes gets entangled with fat and grease (mostly from cooking) in sewer lines, it forms a clump and hardens – impeding flow. This often results in the need for costly repairs that ultimately are added to a citizen's water and sewage bill.

Flushing wipes down the toilet is a growing habit and becoming a bigger concern in many communities, including Northville, according to the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). Nothing should be flushed down the toilet, paper-wise, except for toilet paper. In addition, fats should be thrown away and not flushed down a kitchen or restaurant drain.

"We normally see these wipes being a problem for homeowners in their private sewer lines – the connection from the City main to the house," said DPW Assistant Director Mike Domine. "The DPW has been called out to investigate and the result is the homeowner has to pay for a plumber to come out to clean their sewer line.

"Plumbers often push these wipes into the city sewer, which requires DPW to clean city sewers. The greatest impact is downstream where Northville sanitary sewer lines connect with the county sewers. Their sewer pump stations can get clogged or damaged by these wipes," he said.

Remember to put personal wipes and baby wipes in the trash, do not flush them down the toilet even if the package says they are flushable.

## Watch for summer tax bill in the mail

Summer property tax bills will be mailed July 1. If you don't receive yours by July 10, please contact the Tax Dept. Residents can pay their tax bill online or enjoy the convenience of having their payment automatically deducted from their bank account on the due date. Visit the Finance page under Services on the City website to view payment options.

# Rain gardens absorb rain, avert it from Rouge River tributaries

Jo and Duff Michowski were the first residents in the City of Northville to work with Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) to install a rain garden on their front lawn at 350 Eaton Drive on June 2, 2019, with help from neighbors and FOTR volunteers.

Matthew Bertrand, restoration coordinator and landscape designer with Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) and Beth Rowley, landscape designer with Atlas Outdoors, designed the Michowski's rain garden and helped them select the plants and materials to construct it. Due to a grant, the homeowners only had to pay for half the cost of the materials, which included plants, landscaping bricks, mulch, compost, and a catch basin to retain and release excess water.

The grant was made by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (since renamed EGLE) Nonpoint Source Program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"The whole process couldn't have been easier, thunderstorm delays notwithstanding," noted Jo Michowski.

The Michowski's wanted to put their landscape to work to help solve problems with flooding. During major storms in prior years, their neighborhood had heavy flooding. Much of that excess water ends up in basements, sidewalks and streets. Their 100 square-foot rain garden has extremely sandy soil and can soak up more than 500 gallons of water in a one-inch storm.

Maintenance of a rain garden is similar to a typical garden. It can be constructed to be low, medium or high maintenance. Plants must be able to tolerate flooding for no more than 48 hours and also withstand drought. Lawn grass can also be used.

Eighteen demonstration rain gardens were built from 2015 to 2019 with the grant – half are residential and the rest are community-based, such as at schools and churches. Other rain gardens were installed at Salem Township Hall and Moraine Elementary School in Northville Township. Those rain gardens and the Michowski's keep rain water



*The Michowski's rain garden captures 500 gallons of water per heavy rainfall.  
Photo by Jo Michowski.*

from flooding and polluting Johnson Creek. With each rainfall, a typical residential rain garden absorbs upwards of 1,000 gallons of water while a community rain garden absorbs more than 4,000 gallons.

"People often think that heavy industry is the biggest source of pollution to the Rouge, but the number one problem is too much polluted run-off water during major storms. The flood waters also carry pollutants, such as metals and oils from our cars," said Bertrand. Flood waters disrupt creeks and rivers, destabilize banks and threaten private property.

Although additional grant money is not assured, Bertrand is educating people how to build their own rain gardens through the Master Rain Gardener Training Program. The goal is to build 1,000 rain gardens in the Rouge River watershed by 2025. A free, self-guided version of the course using recordings of past classes is available online at [TheRouge.org/master-rain-gardener](https://TheRouge.org/master-rain-gardener). This website also contains a PDF of native plants, shrubs, trees and flowers that are well suited for a rain garden, along with design tips and tricks.

*DDA continued from page 1*

That's the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

The DDA, established by City ordinance in August 1978 under Michigan Public Act 197, assists the City of Northville in the redevelopment of the downtown area. A DDA is permitted to perform activities such as analysis of economic changes taking place in the downtown district; long-range planning for the downtown area; land acquisition and improvement; building construction, improvement, rehabilitation, maintenance and operation; and construction and maintenance of public facilities such as sidewalks, parking lots, streets, street lighting, community centers, and parks. The DDA is directed by Lori Ward with support from Jeri Johnson, marketing professional, and guided by an 11-member board, chaired by Shawn Riley, realtor and musician. In total, there are five standing committees with involvement from at least 30 members of the community.

The DDA has a formidable workload. In

good times, it advertises for restaurants and retailers, and garners media attention through a consultant. The DDA manages a calendar of events that keeps people coming to Northville for entertainment – and, hopefully, shopping and dining. In addition to marketing and special events, the DDA manages all of the design and construction projects in the downtown including the Streetscape Improvements, Town Square Project and Comerica Community Connection.

In bad times, such as during a pandemic, the DDA is laser-focused on helping struggling businesses still ring up sales despite having to regulate the number of customers inside. The DDA developed a list of services (curbside pickup, take-out, delivery) being offered during the onset of the pandemic and fanned it out to thousands of regional residents. Ongoing media coverage kept downtown Northville in the spotlight, drawing consumers throughout the region.


Creating temporary street closures on E. Main and N. Center should help these resilient business owners partake in the economic

recovery that is expected to begin this summer. In the short term, many have received government funding through CARES and PPP to tide them over.

## Want to help shape the City of Northville's future?

You are invited to take a survey about the Master Plan to help guide the redevelopment of the Racetrack, Cady St./Cady Town, and South Center Street. The City of Northville Planning Commission is reviewing these three sub-areas of the Master Plan and we want your input into how we live, work and play there.

The online survey can be accessed here: <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/bkPOcN> and from City News, social media and the City website (Master Plan section). To obtain a paper copy or for questions about the survey, contact City Manager Pat Sullivan at [psullivan@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:psullivan@ci.northville.mi.us) or call 248.449.9905. The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

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<https://www.facebook.com/northvillecityhall/>

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<https://twitter.com/NorthvilleCity>

## Farmers' Market open

The opening day of the Farmers' Market on May 14 was a bit unsettling: it was pouring rain and the state was still in lockdown due to COVID-19 restrictions. Yet being able to purchase produce, food items, plants and flowers provided a ray of sunshine and dose of optimism.

The 2020 season will be different. Vendors are happy to be back and shoppers are too, yet both groups must deal with the realities of a pandemic. Wearing a mask and staying physically apart are part of the new normal. Being outdoors adds another measure of safety.

"We are emphasizing essential versus social," said Jody Humphries, executive director of the



chamber, which manages the market. Market goers should plan to get in and out of the outdoor market quickly with their purchases, and maintain a physical distance of six feet from the vendors and other shoppers.

View this year's vendors and options for pre-orders and pickup on the chamber website ([Northville.org](http://Northville.org)) and their Facebook page.

## Still time to complete 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is underway and Northville residents are responding – 79 percent of households have completed the 2020 Census as of June 9. If you haven't yet completed the census, please do so soon. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

What's at stake? Funding for roads, bridges and other infrastructure; hospitals, emergency response, and data used in reports that support other funding mechanisms. The census is used to allocate funding for education in communities. In the event of natural disasters, the U.S. Census Bureau produces timely local data that are critical to emergency planning, preparedness and recovery efforts. Plus, the count determines the number of congressional representatives each state has, and is used to draw legislative districts.

To complete the census – which takes about 10 minutes – visit <https://www.census.gov>. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential.

*Roads continued from page 1*

The best laid construction plans can be impacted by weather, utility and other infrastructure issues, and also this year, the historic COVID-19 pandemic.

"We understand construction may interfere with our residents' daily activities and, in all road and utility construction projects, we do our best to ensure as little down time and inconvenience as possible," said DPW Director Loyd Cureton.

During road construction, street parking is not permitted. Hours of work are typically from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. View the map of the streets being repaired and reconstructed: <https://tinyurl.com/y7sgq3np>

This construction work is the result of voter approval in 2018 of the issuance of \$3,050,000 in bonds, paid for over 10 years to finance street improvements.

## City Directory

Allen Terrace.....	248-349-8030
Assessing Department .....	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.....	248-305-2851
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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