

# NORTHVILLE

## Matters

City of Northville  
215 West Main Street  
Northville, Michigan 48167

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

## Downtown Northville enjoys designation as a Social District

Downtown Northville is looking a lot livelier these days as restaurants, bars and retailers expand outside their front doors onto shared space that allows for social distancing for patrons and visitors.

Center Street Grille, Table 5, Lucy & the Wolf, Browndog, Simply Wine, 160 Main and Poole's Tavern all have special permits that allow them to sell alcohol to patrons who can take their drinks outside in the Social District, which was officially established in late August. Prior to that, alcohol could only be consumed by patrons outdoors if they were seated at a table inside a designated area at a restaurant or bar.

The Social District is a new program in Michigan, approved this summer by the State legislature to address the slowdown in restaurant/retail sales caused by COVID-19. The permit is good through Dec. 2024. It allows patrons to consume drinks purchased from nearby restaurants/bars that hold the proper liquor licenses and permits anywhere within the designated Social District.

The Social District encompasses N. Center from Main to Dunlap and E. Main from Center to Hutton, with common areas including sidewalks, roadways, Town Square and Old Church Square.

City Council approved the "reopen downtown Northville" plan in June, which involved shutting down the two downtown streets to traffic after receiving a groundswell of support from retailers, restaurant owners and citizens.



From left, Connie Livanos, Lucy Bolla and Sue Arnold enjoy a coffee break in the Social District. Photo by Liz Cezat.

Due to the expansion of the outdoor seating area for restaurants and bars, the City ordinance for sidewalk cafes was changed to allow alcohol to be prepared at an outdoor bar to be served outdoors.

The two blocks of Main and Center will remain closed to traffic through Oct. 31. This year's Skeletons are Alive exhibit is still on since there's plenty of space to view the vignettes. However, there will not be a kick-off event this year due to the pandemic.

## You're invited to a virtual Open House

The Planning Commission is hosting virtual open house sessions (via Zoom) on redevelopment of the Cady St./Racetrack/S. Center St. sub-areas. The sessions feature a presentation by City Planner Sally Elmiger and a small group activity to design sub-area plans. The Planning Commission will consider the results of the activity in their deliberations of the Master Plan update.

Each meeting can accept 30 participants with preference given to City of Northville residents, property owners, business owners and employees of City businesses. Register on the City website for Sept 22, 23 or 26. You will receive a confirmation e-mail after registering. If all sessions fill up, additional sessions will be scheduled.

## Two ordinances approved for single-family and two-family dwellings

City Council approved two ordinances – one that establishes a .36 Floor Area Ratio (FAR) percentage of house to lot size and another that provides incentives for rear garages by allowing a portion of a new front porch in the front yard setback.

The FAR ordinance establishes a new standard that coordinates the size of the house to the lot size by limiting the amount of floor area to .36 of the lot area. Certain features of a house that don't add mass to the building area are exempt from the FAR calculation.

The second ordinance incentivizes having a rear garage (attached or detached) by allowing up to 4 feet of a front porch in the front setback, and excluding that portion of the porch from the lot coverage requirement. This ordinance amendment also addresses porte-cocheres – a roof over a driveway at the door of a house.

The FAR decision capped two years of intense public comment at public hearings and at Planning Commission meetings as well as from e-mailed comments and letters. Concerns ranged from the FAR percentage environmental impacts, resale value and housing affordability – particularly for young families and seniors.

You may view these changes to Sections 15 and 26 of the zoning ordinance on the City website.

# Notices

## Mark your calendar for the General Election on Nov. 3

### 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. To obtain an absent voter ballot for the Nov. 3 General Election, you can complete and submit your application online through this link: <https://mvc.sos.state.mi.us/avapplication>. The application is emailed directly to the clerk. Applications are also available in the City Hall 24-hour vestibule.

The deadline to have a ballot mailed is 5 p.m., Oct. 30. Apply earlier to avoid mail delays. You can also pick up your own ballot in person at the City Clerk's office beginning Sept. 24. The photo ID requirement is in effect.

### Voter Registration

**Now through Oct. 19** – You can register to vote at any Secretary of State branch office (or use their online registration option), Northville City Clerk's office, a designated State agency, or by U.S. mail. Photo ID requirement is in effect for in-person registration. No residency verification is required.

**Oct. 20 through Election Day, Nov. 3** – Register in person at Northville City Clerk's Office, 215 W. Main Street. Residency verification is required. You may vote by absent voter ballot or at your polling place on Election Day. Residency verification documents must have your name and current address. Digital copies are acceptable.

### 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 November General Election.

## Consider paying your utility bill online

Utility bill customers may sign up to receive email bills or arrange for automatic payment through the City website, using the BS&A vendor portal. E-bills are emailed on the billing date with a full-page bill attached as a PDF. Payments can be made by ACH, which is an electronic transaction agreed to by the customer that allows the City's bank to withdraw the amount due from the customer's bank account. For questions, call 248-449-9901.

## Firefighter Training Academy graduates 18 students

The Northville City Fire Department graduated 18 students from the Firefighter Training Academy in July in a rigorous program that blended classwork with field training.

All graduates became qualified to seek Firefighter I and II certification through the State of Michigan. One of those graduates is Northville Police Officer Melissa Vernon, who now adds firefighter training to her skillset. Eight of the graduates have been accepted as on-call firefighters by the NCFD, which serves the cities of Northville and Plymouth.

Classes began in November 2019 and stretched four months past the anticipated end date of April 2020 due to limits on in-person gatherings triggered by COVID-19.

"When the pandemic broke out, the instructors conducted classroom sessions by remote conferencing that was live and interactive," said Fire Chief Steve Ott. "I'd like to give a shout-out to all the instructors and to the students for their hard work and dedication."

While the academy was a success in terms of the number of students trained and the positive teaching experience for instructors, the program will not be offered in fall 2020. Instead, firefighters will focus on becoming trained in emergency medical services (EMS), which constitutes about 70% of fire station calls.

"Three of our EMS technicians graduated from the academy and that has resulted in a majority of department members being cross-trained in both firefighting and EMS disciplines," said Ott.

## Safety measures in place at City Hall during pandemic

City Hall is taking several combined actions to help minimize the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 in an indoor building. Even though the building has reopened to the public, citizens are encouraged to conduct business online and by phone, email, regular mail and by using the drop box in the vestibule or circular drive.

Inside the building, masks must be worn; if you don't have one, we will provide you with one. Visitors are advised to keep six feet apart from others; place markers on the floor in several areas guide social distancing. Cover your coughs and sneezes with the inside of your arm.

Plexiglass screens are used at the front desk and in certain meeting areas. Deep cleaning is being done on a regular basis and work stations and offices are equipped with disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.

Meetings continue to be held online (Zoom platform) with login and call-in information posted on the website, in City News and often on social media. The bonus of this change is that more people are attending meetings. It's not uncommon for 40 people to be at a City Council meeting and many more attend Planning Commission meetings.

To mitigate the cost of extra supplies and physical changes to the building necessitated by the pandemic, the City is seeking reimbursement of \$20,000 from CARES Act funds through a Resolution and Interlocal Agreement with Oakland County. Additional reimbursement may be sought before the cut-off date of Nov. 30, 2020.

Visit our COVID-19 web page for news and updates about City services. If you have questions about City services, please call the City manager at 248-449-9905 or send an email to [info@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:info@ci.northville.mi.us). Follow us on twitter and Facebook for more immediate updates.



Firefighters in the academy practice putting out a car fire during field training.  
Photo by Matt Zmuda.

## Police Dept. has several changes in personnel

They came in rapid-fire succession . . . one new hire, one retirement, one promotion and another new hire. From May – July, there were four transitions in the City of Northville Police Dept.

The department is at full force under Police Chief Alan Maciag with 13 police officers.

Sworn in on May 20, Francis (Frank) Cerulla brings big city experience to Northville after learning the ropes in one of the Detroit Police Department's most active precincts. Cerulla holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from WSU and trained at the Detroit Police Training Academy.

Captain Dustin Krueger worked his last day in the department on July 17, nearly 27 years after he first arrived. He served as interim police chief for four months in 2018 and was named "Police Officer of the Year" by his peers during that time.

During a retirement party held outdoors with social distancing, Police Chief Maciag praised Krueger's personable approach and dedication to the police force.

Sgt. Greg Hannewald was promoted to captain following Krueger's retirement. He earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Ferris State University and worked in the department for nearly 24 years, going from a police officer to detective and later a sergeant before his recent promotion. He noted, "The City of Northville and the citizens who live here have afforded me a wonderful and rewarding career thus far, and I am thankful. I am excited to see what else we can accomplish together for the greater good."

Michael Petri joined the police department in July after retiring as Dearborn Heights police chief. He served in that city for more than two decades as a police officer, detective, undercover narcotics officer, sergeant, captain and chief of police. In addition, he was an educator of criminal investigation and criminalistics at Henry Ford Community College for 18 years.

## City installs water meters

The City of Northville is completing a city-wide water meter replacement program to install new water meters and also replace second water meters exclusively for outdoor use. If you haven't yet done so, please schedule an appointment for your water meter replacement directly with the City.

During the scheduled appointment, a worker will replace the inside meter and upgrade the wiring and then replace the touch pad currently located on an outside wall with a new meter interface unit (MIU). Due to COVID-19 precautions, workers will wear masks and sanitize anything they touch. City workers carry identification and drive city vehicles.



## Beautification Commission gives awards and keeps flowers and plants thriving

The Beautification Commission continued its 31st year of awarding local businesses and organizations for their displays of flowers and plants with Beautification Awards in summer 2020 despite setbacks caused by the pandemic. (See list of winners on the City website.)

"We had wanted to see how the businesses would recover from the coronavirus shut-down. If you've walked through downtown, you can see that we never should have doubted the resilience of our business community," said Beautification Commission Chairperson Diane Pittaway.

"We awarded 32 business and civic organizations and the City never looked more beautiful." At their July 6 meeting, the commissioners considered whether they should proceed with the awards this year with the pandemic swirling around. (At the time, Northville Twp. had cancelled their awards but later reactivated the program.) After discussing the pros and cons, the commissioners decided that the annual awards were a special event that the City really needed.

The commissioners established a judging schedule, visited the locales and carefully ranked the attributes of the gardens and outdoor space to determine the winners. There was no "Best in Town" or "Pride of Northville" awards this year, instead it was more in line with "We're all in this together – let's celebrate all we've got."

The coronavirus did force the commission to cancel the annual luncheon hosted at a Rotary meeting in September, at which winners would have been recognized. Instead, the winners were mailed certificates, and signs were posted by the award-winning gardens.

During their annual planting day in June, the dedicated group of 11 Beautification Commission members put in extra effort to revitalize the downtown area with bursts of colors on every block. This year, it was doubly important with two main streets (portions of Center and Main) closed to vehicles yet wide open for pedestrians, shoppers and diners.

The Beautification Commission relies on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for design and purchasing, and on the Dept. of Public Works (DPW) for watering and supplies. Beautification Commission members and volunteers weed the beds and keep the flowers blooming in the summer and early fall.

The next time you see a lush triple-barrel planter in downtown, the well-kept gardens in front of City Hall, or the numerous flower beds in and around downtown, you'll see why the Beautification Commission is one of the City's gems.

## Construction projects enhance City streets and infrastructure

It was a busy summer for road construction and infrastructure projects. Full road work was done on Stanstead, Summerside, Larry, Allen and Potomac, as well as dual road construction and new water and sanitary sewer lines along N. Rogers, W. Cady, and Grace St. and Court. Mill and overlay was done on Baseline, Coldspring and Sherrie Lane.

Nagle Paving performed the road reconstruction and mill and overlay, plus additional work that came up during the season. Bidigare Contractors handled the water main replacement, using a pipe-bursting technique that replaced pipe in-situ in 300-foot sections. The water and sanitary sewer mains on Grace Street from Maplewood to Hill required open trenching and will be completed by Nagle.

Unplanned sanitary sewer repairs were made on Main Street near Griswold and at a line on Fairbrook near 7 Mile that was close to collapse and had created a sink hole. DVM Utilities did the work on both projects. At E. Main, work included inserting a new sewer line to replace an existing 12" clay sanitary sewer line.

*Continued on page 4*



Some of the 11 Commissioners, from left (seated), Suemarie Klimek, Liliana Miyahara, Diane Pittaway and Amanda Serpelloni (seated). Photo by Liz Cezat.



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*Construction...continued from page 3*

Two parking lots were repaved: at the Art House, which also serves the dog park; and at Ford Field.

The City worked with engineering consultant Fleis & VandenBrink on the design and construction oversight of these projects. The consultants maintained a website portal with weekly status updates for the community.

Unexpected problems surfaced as they do in all major projects. Old, malfunctioning valves were unearthed and had to be replaced. On Larry St., a distracted motorist drove past the barriers and over the wet cement, which forced a redo of that section of pavement. In some spots, leaks from artesian wells were discovered and had to be addressed before streets could be paved. Old tree stumps poured over in past road projects had to be removed prior to road paving.

The construction work stems from voter approval in 2018 of \$3,050,000 in bonds and additional funding from the general fund to finance street improvements.

## Rebuilding bank of Johnson Creek will transform Fish Hatchery Park

After years in the making, work began in the summer to rebuild the Johnson Creek bank and pond at Fish Hatchery Park and restore the natural habitat, which will substantially improve not only the park area but also the Rouge watershed.

During construction, please don't enter the construction area bordered by orange plastic fencing. For your safety and to avoid interference with the project or damage to the equipment, follow directions on posted signs. The project is expected to be completed this fall.



The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) secured a \$3 million grant from the EPA to fund this project and a larger project at another location outside of Northville. Anglin Civil, LLC, of Livonia, was awarded a contract in the amount of \$963,090 to perform the earth-moving and restoration work. The undertaking will bring to life a design created last year by Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT) of Ann Arbor, with engineering support from Soil Materials and Engineers (SME).

During the project, the existing concrete wall will be replaced with a natural earthen berm held in place by sheet metal pilings. The bank will have tiered levels, landscaped with native plants with openings along the way so park visitors can go to the creek's edge.

Originally the hatchery was one of the largest fish hatcheries in the U.S. Johnson Creek is one of only a few cold-water creeks in southeast Michigan that support a trout population.

## 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.....	248-305-2851
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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around town?**



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