

# Northville Matters

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City of Northville • 215 West Main Street • Northville, Michigan 48167

## Construction update

The construction season began in May this year, as planned, with restoration and repair of the city's water mains, roads and parking lots – ensuring citizens have safe water to drink and solid surfaces for driving and parking. A good infrastructure is a sound investment for a city.

Bigdare Contractors is replacing the water main on five streets this construction season. Those same streets will be totally reconstructed by Nagle Paving. The streets are: Wing Court, Fairbrook (street and court), High and Maplewood. Rehabilitation work on Carrington and Jeffery will continue into June.

The parking lots at Tipping Pointe Theater (Cady and Griswold) and Northville Square (Cady between Center and Wing) were resurfaced by Nagel.

Engineering consultants Fleis & VandenBrink are performing the design work and construction oversight on all construction projects. They also maintain a web page with weekly updates on projects. View it here: <https://tinyurl.com/npdc9xvn>.

The estimated cost of these construction projects is \$2.9 million. The street bond funds approved by voters in 2018 were used on these projects.

## Summer sizzles with expanded outdoor dining

The restaurants in downtown Northville are gearing up for what's expected to be a busy summer season. Eleven restaurants and bars are licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption within the social district – on the two blocks of Main Street and Center Street that are closed to traffic.

The ability to spread out tables in the closed streets has been a boost for business. Other communities have traffic going by their outdoor tables, but in Northville, not having traffic in those areas makes outdoor dining a safer, more vibrant experience. Plus, the entrances are newly landscaped by Begonia Brothers of Northville.

Another enticement this year is the sound of music every Friday and Saturday night, organized by the DDA – from Memorial Day through Halloween weekend. Some restaurants are also hiring musicians to play outside on other evenings to extend the unbeatable ambience.

Restaurants outside the social district are also expanding their outdoor dining footprint.

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## Farmers' Market Task Force delivers

In fall 2020, with a pandemic swirling, Mayor Brian Turnbull enlisted the support of fellow council members and engaged citizens to establish three task forces to study and advance major community assets: Ford Field, the Rouge River watershed in Northville, and the Farmers' Market. This article will focus on the work to enhance the quality of the Farmers' Market while helping secure a new location.

The weekly market, held Thursdays, May through October, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., is managed by the Northville Chamber of Commerce. It operates from the two-acre parking lot at Center and 7 Mile but will likely need a new location when the Downs property is redeveloped.

"The market can draw 2,000 on a good day and is one of the Top 10 farmers' markets in Michigan," notes Mayor Pro Tem Marilyn Price, who serves on the task force.

The task force seeks to gather information about the market, consider its impact on the community and region, identify available grants, and strengthen connections to enhance this asset in the future. It is chaired by Andrew Krenz, who now serves on City Council.

The city is proud of the market and has a stake in its new location for many reasons, including that marketgoers also patronize restaurants and stores in downtown Northville. It's important that the new location be in a central place with access to truck deliveries; parking; safe, walkable pathways; and be sustainable and scenic. Currently, the south side of the market faces a section of tall trees and pines along 7 Mile, and is within walking distance to downtown and the Bennett Arboretum Pathway.

The task force and chamber leaders recently reviewed 17 sites within city limits. Those were



*Travis Fusilier of the Fusilier Family Farm and Greenhouse talks with a customer.*

narrowed down to a few, including:

- 1) Former site of McDonald Ford – 2.5 acres of land adjacent to Hines and the Walled Lake branch tributary (path of a daylighted river). At Seven Mile and Northville Road, it's convenient for trucks and close to downtown.
- 2) A site in the Downs Development, including

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# Notices

## City will adjust utility rates on July 1

Northville residents benefit from timely, cost-effective city services that keep neighborhoods and the community operating smoothly – from weekly trash pick-up to providing clean water and safely disposing 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 July 1, 2021.

Service	Current Rate	Rate on July 1	Frequency
Water	\$10.35	\$10.35	Per unit *
Sewer	\$7.51	\$7.88	Per unit *
Service charge	\$3.67	\$4.84	Bi-monthly
Meter replacement charge	\$6.67	\$6.67	Bi-monthly
Refuse & recycling	\$40.10	\$41.06	Bi-monthly

\*1 unit = 1,000 gallons

## 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 have 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.

## Garage sale sign permits

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.

## City named Tree City, plants 100 new trees

The city was designated in April as an Official Tree City by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Arbor Day Foundation. It is an honor that speaks not only to the current tree canopy but also addresses how well the city is maintaining its trees and planting new ones.

More than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to becoming a Tree City USA. They meet four core standards: maintain a tree board or department, have a community tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrate Arbor Day. In 2021, the city joined with the township to celebrate Arbor Day by giving away free tree and plant seedlings.

Dave Gutman, who chairs the Sustainability Team, said the team recently put tags on many of the city's historic trees denoting the species.

"It's important to get the right kind of trees in the right place," he said. "They reduce noise volume and create privacy and beauty. Everyone loves trees."

In May, the city planted 100 trees in neighborhood right-of-ways and along parkways. They include: Tulip, Ivory Silk Lilac, Red Maple, and Exclamation London Planetree. The city has contracted with Davey Resources Group to conduct a tree inventory to help manage the City's urban forest.



A tree planted on Andover. Photo by DPW.

## Andrew Krenz joins City Council

Andrew Krenz was sworn in to City Council on April 27 to fill the seat held by Sam Ekong, who resigned on March 25. Of five eligible candidates, Krenz received a majority vote by City Council and will complete the term through Nov. 8, 2021.



A resident of the Historic District since 2008, Krenz previously served on the Planning Commission and is a member of the Farmers' Market Task Force. He supports Northville's commitment to sustainability, history and walkability, and wants to see more young families move to Northville.

An engineering executive at GM, Krenz earned an Engineering degree from the University of Michigan, a Master's in Engineering from Purdue University, and an MBA from Indiana University. He has six patents.

He and his wife, Kristine, have three children who attend Northville Public Schools.

## City Hall reopens, precautions in place

City Hall reopened to the public on May 24. Unvaccinated people must continue to wear masks inside (unless state guidelines differ). All citizens and especially those at higher risk for COVID-19 are encouraged to conduct business online and by phone, email, regular mail and by using a drop box.

Inside the building, plexiglass shields are still in place and six-foot distance is recommended. Drinking fountains have been turned off.

Meetings continue to be held online (Zoom platform) with login and call-in information posted on the website. In-person council, board and committee meetings are slated to return after August, depending on the virus status. For that reason, we aren't posting summer community events in this issue; please view the sponsor's website or City News.

Visit our COVID-19 page for news and updates. If you have questions about city services, please call 248-349-1300 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.

# Take action to help police prevent crime

The City of Northville Police Department is offering a new, free, crime prevention program to home owner associations (HOAs), homeowners and business owners within city limits. The program offers a security inspection of a person's home or business along with recommendations on how to secure them.

The new program is being implemented by Sgt. Andrew Kirby, a crime prevention specialist. The department is following the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which is a multi-disciplinary approach of crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments.

"CPTED strategies aim to reduce victimization, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, and build a sense of community among inhabitants so they can gain territorial control of areas, reduce crime, and minimize fear of crime," states the website of the International CPTED Association.

CPTED (pronounced sep-ted) can be applied to cityscapes as well as homes and

neighborhoods. Homeowners can deter crime by installing good lighting in the front and back of their home, especially using motion-sensor lights; having secure locks on doors, including deadbolts with 3-inch screws that can't be easily kicked in or smashed; closing garage doors; and having a basic camera-style security system such as Ring.

"Ring cameras in general have helped the Police Department solve crimes (by using the video provided)," said Kirby.

Overall, the crime rate in Northville is low. People can sign up for free Nixle alerts to learn of criminal activities at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) or view recent crimes at [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com).

Keeping a lid on crime involves the entire community. Kirby encourages residents to call the Police Department when they see suspicious activity. "Community members are the eyes and ears of crime prevention," he said.

For HOAs, Kirby will present crime prevention tips to members in a meeting format. He has presented to Northville Estates and is eager to talk to other groups.

While house break-ins are rare, vehicle break-ins occur more often – especially in areas where people park outdoors and don't lock the doors. People often leave cell phones, wallets and computers in their cars, which are easy pickings for thieves. If a garage door opener is in the vehicle, that provides easy access into a home. So remember to lock your vehicle doors too.

Other ways to manage the environment to prevent crime are to keep clear sight lines around your home by trimming tree limbs that dip below six feet and keeping bushes trimmed so they don't block the view from a window. "You should be able to see out your windows," Kirby said. This is especially important if your property is next to a public space or heavily wooded area.

There's an element of the "broken window theory" in the crime prevention program – property that's not kept up can become a magnet for crime. Fixing the little things can go a long way toward making your home or business crime-resistant.

## Task Force continued from page 1

the current location. The developer would need to earmark two acres for a dedicated market or offer shared space in a new or existing parking lot.

These two sites are starting points, other identified locations may prove to be better suited when the time comes to finalize a site.

"The group did their due diligence to find a location for the market," said Chamber Executive Director Jody Humphries. There's no timetable yet for when the market needs to move. She said the vendors need a concrete base, not grass, for trucks to unload produce, flowers and other items.

The market is an important economic, social, environmental and nutritional aspect of life for Northville and surrounding areas. "The entire Northville community supports our Thursday Farmers' Market," Humphries said.

Ideally, the task force and Humphries envision an exciting new setting, one that could be a destination venue for other events and gatherings. Since the market season and hours only account for 7 percent utilization of a site, additional activities or uses would need to fill the remaining 93 percent.

"We looked at the Royal Oak market, and 'bookended' what a premium four-season venue might look like," Krenz said. "We envision a site that offers events beyond the market, such as conferences, weddings, cooking classes, reunions, proms and antique fairs.

"I'd like to thank the 15-20 passionate volunteers who have done a fantastic job pulling all of this together," Krenz said of the task force.

## Restaurants continued from page 1

The Garage Grill and Fuel Bar is adding additional tables to their circular driveway, closing it off to vehicles. With its unique history and memorabilia, the Garage is a destination spot and draws many people from outside the city through Resy.com and Open Table – reservation websites and apps.

Garage General Manager Jennifer Deane noted, "It's been such a crazy year. We were thankful for outdoor dining. It's been full every night with our patio. Everyone has been very supportive. We've had a lot of support from the locals – it's humbling.

"Business has been impacted," she said. "There are still people who don't want to eat inside (because of the pandemic). But many people ate on the patio year-round."

The biggest struggle for many restaurants is finding people to work there. "We've been trying to recruit," Deane said, "but people aren't out looking for jobs. We're hiring for all positions, front and back of house."

Genitti's has restored its dinner theater, and is busy with events again - showers, weddings, class reunions and other gatherings. They also offer drinks there and "to go" as a licensed seller in the social district, and have live music at times in their outdoor dining space.

Sam Shihadeh, owner of Sports Den in Northville Square which faces Cady, said, "Having the outdoor patio definitely saved

our business." They added a second patio space this summer.

His expectations for the summer are to be a bit busier than last summer and start to see things get back to normal. "Northville is such a homey town. The city itself has been very supportive. When there were snowstorms, customers still showed up to pick food up or eat on the patio."

During the early pandemic, he focused on boxes of food that people could take home to cook for themselves – such as pizzas and burgers. He may offer that again. He has added a new happy hour: Monday – Friday, 2 to 5 p.m., with discounts on beverages, some appetizers and beer.

Shihadeh noticed the pandemic's silver lining. "Everyone is being safer," he said. "As far as the business aspect, it affected the bottom line but it's not all about that. It made the whole nation aware of greater issues at hand. It brought communities together. We came to understand how we have to help each other out."

Let's collectively toast to a summer of fun, great hospitality, sizzling food and beverages, and a fizzling virus.





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## Michigan enacts state historic tax credit

Public Act 343 was signed into law by Gov. Whitmer on Dec. 30, 2020. The new State Historic Tax Credit program will help support place-based projects while promoting the preservation of Michigan's historic resources.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) are working on a plan to establish and administer the program, which will provide tax credits to developers, homeowners and organizations or businesses that restore historic properties.

Eligible properties must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Sites, or be in a local historic district, and either be individually listed or contribute to a listed district. This includes eligible properties in Northville's Historic District.

The credit has a \$5 million cap per calendar year, which will be divided as follows:

- \$2 million for commercial with expenses of \$2 million or greater
- \$2 million for commercial with expenses of less than \$2 million
- \$1 million total for residential projects

Credits will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Additional updates will be shared here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hh2w45f>



## Foundry Flask property gets closer to demolition

A public hearing before the Historic District Commission on May 19 was favorable for the requested demolition of buildings that occupy the 4-acre Foundry Flask site at 456 E. Cady. The HDC granted the request by Utah Development, LLC for demolition, provided two conditions are met: obtain the Planning Commission's approval of the new development proposal and document the existing buildings on site as a historical record (through photographs and drawings), and provide that record to the city and Northville Historical Society.

The developer plans to build a mixed-use building on the site through the Planned



Sketch by Robb Burroughs, O/X Studio, Inc.

Unit Development (PUD) process in the Zoning Ordinance. A mix of commercial and residential uses on this site is in sync with the Master Plan. The property is currently zoned as PR-1: performance regulated industrial district.

## 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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# City News

of Northville

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