

Northville Matters

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

COVID-19 impact on City Hall operations

With the spike of cases of COVID-19 (Delta variant) in recent weeks, City Hall has extended the use of Zoom meetings for City Council, the Planning Commission, the Historic District Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Those meetings will be facilitated by staff at Carlisle Wortman Associates. Other boards and commissions may also choose to hold Zoom meetings. City Council's extension of the Local State of Emergency until Dec. 31, 2021 enables meetings to be held on Zoom when warranted. If you do attend a city meeting in person, please practice social distancing.

Inside City Hall, unvaccinated people must continue to wear masks (unless state health guidelines differ).

The city is expecting to receive half of its appropriated COVID-19 federal relief funds (\$312,000) in September from the federal Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF). The balance – of an equal amount – is expected to be received by September 2022. The fund is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Recipients can use the award funds in ways that best suit the needs of their constituents as long as it fits into four statutory categories. The Finance Department will work with city officials to allocate the funds, which must be committed to one of the categories by December 2024 and spent by December 2026.

Leaf pick-up

North (of 8 Mile)
week of Nov. 1
week of Nov. 29

South (of 8 Mile)
week of Nov. 8
week of Dec. 6

See city website for more details on leaf pick-up.

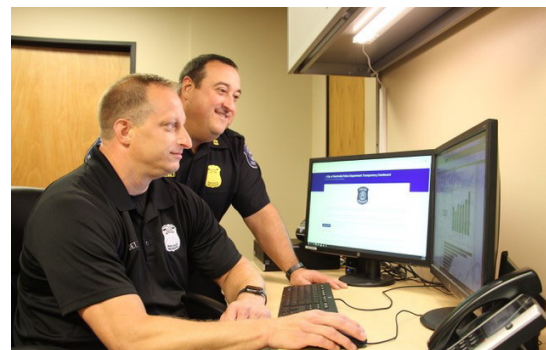
View crime statistics on new police dashboard

The Northville Police Department has launched a dashboard on the city website that presents data on calls for service, citations and arrests and will also add data on citizen complaints, officer training and officer use of force. The web page is named: Access to data and Nixle alerts.

The police department uses CLEMIS, software offered by Oakland County, as its records management system. (CLEMIS is the acronym for Oakland County's Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System.) The new program features Arx Alert Software, from Altovista Technology, LLC, which converts CLEMIS reports into useable monthly data and displays it on an easy-to-view dashboard.

Only the data from various categories, not subject names, are displayed on the dashboard. Data is from persons ages 16 and older who interacted with police from 2019 to the present.

"The new software gives the community a closer look at what police are involved with and the types of incidences that occur here," said Police Chief Al Maciag. "It strengthens



Cpt. Greg Hannewald and Det. Brian Dogonski (seated) look at data on the police dashboard. Photo by Liz Cezat.

transparency and accountability to the community and also assists the department in setting high standards for community policing."

City Council approved the contract with Altovista Technology at its April 5 meeting. A grant through Oakland County is covering a portion of the dashboard cost for two years of the three-year contract.

Ford Field Task Force urges community and council to act on its report

The Ford Field Task Force, chaired by D.J. Boyd with 20-25 citizen volunteers, produced a collaborative, comprehensive report that they presented to City Council on June 21. (View it on the city website on the Task Force page). Members of the task force were creative yet practical in their suggestions for improvements – a new play structure, walking path, seasonal splash pad/skating pond, bathroom, pavilion, bridges and landscaping, new entrance and stairwell, and creating a connection between the main park and the east side behind the water wheel. There's an urgency about the timing required to transform the vision into reality.

The intent is for council to carefully consider the recommendations, prioritize them with other budget obligations, and engage the greater community in coalescing a vision for how this historic park just a short walk from downtown Northville can best serve the community with added amenities. "It's a city jewel that just needs some polishing," said Boyd.

What the task force doesn't want to see happen is for the report to look good and feel good but sit on a shelf without being acted on. "We have a short window of time to apply for State of

Continued on page 3

Notices

Election dates and details

Mark your calendars for the General Election on Nov. 2, where voters will cast their ballot for mayor of the City of Northville and two seats on City Council.

Absentee ballots

All registered voters have the right to vote by mail without providing a reason. To obtain an absentee ballot for the Nov. 2 Election, you can complete and submit your application online through this link: <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/avapplication>. The application is emailed directly to the clerk. Applications are also available in the City Hall 24-hour vestibule.

If you signed up to receive automatic absentee ballot applications, the Nov. 2 absentee ballot applications (red/white/blue postcard) were mailed in late August. You must sign and return the application to have a ballot mailed to you.

The deadline to have a ballot mailed is 5 p.m., Oct. 29. Apply earlier to avoid mail delays. You can also pick up your own ballot in person at the City Clerk's Office through 4 p.m. on Nov 1. The photo ID requirement is in effect.

Voter Registration

Now through Oct. 18: Register in any manner (online, by mail, in person)

Oct. 19 to 8 p.m. Election Day, Nov 2: Register in person at the Northville City Clerk's Office, 215 W. Main Street. Residency verification is required. You may vote by absentee ballot or at your polling place on Election Day. Residency verification must have your name and current Northville address. Digital copies are acceptable.

Saturday hours

On Oct. 30, the City Clerk's office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for in person voter registration and in person absentee ballots.

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 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.

Cross-Connection Control Program begins soon

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will begin the residential Cross Connection Control Program this fall. The city's longtime contractor for commercial cross-connection inspections, HydroCorp, will conduct state-required, home-based inspections of exterior water connections. Over the next five years, a different section of the city will be covered, with approximately 500 inspections conducted annually. Notices will be mailed to water customers prior to the inspection date; the homeowner does not need to be present.

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution. Water normally flows in one direction, from the public water system through the customer's water plumbing system to a faucet or other plumbing fixtures. Under certain conditions, water can flow in the reverse direction. This is known as backflow and could cause non-potable water to backflow into the resident's drinking water, creating a hazard for the resident.

During the residential inspection, HydroCorp technicians will examine connections for inground irrigation systems, swimming pools, hose bibs, and any other outdoor water connections to detect actual and potential cross-connections. A record will be made of each inspection, and homeowners will be notified if repairs need to be made to existing backflow devices/assemblies. While the inspection is free, the homeowner must pay for any needed repairs and for the follow-up inspection of those repairs.

No inspections will be conducted inside the home. For more information on cross connections both outside and inside your home, view the DPW section of the city website.

New construction site regulations

Builders and owners of sites under construction will need to adhere to a tight set of standards or face stiff fines after City Council in August amended an ordinance, created a check list and set fines that aim to reduce environmental hazards, improve the tidiness of these sites and limit related nuisances that adversely impact neighbors.

City Council approved ordinance changes to chapter 14, which will require builders/owners to maintain construction sites in a responsible, professional manner by abiding to standards, which are paired with the ordinance but can be updated independently by council. Related requirements from ordinances 34,74 and 90 were brought into the new ordinance.

City Manager Pat Sullivan sought input from many different levels – government, legal and the construction industry – when developing the plan brought before council. In addition, many citizens' comments helped shape the set of standards adopted. Among those standards are soil erosion prevention, tree preservation fencing, "portajohn" placement, and keeping sidewalks and streets clean and open for pedestrians and traffic.

To enforce the ordinance, a city inspector will visit construction sites within city limits on a regular basis to ensure compliance of new standards. Builders who don't comply face a civil infraction penalty with a fee of \$250 for the first violation and \$500 for the second violation.

Renovations at Allen Terrace

This fall, Allen Terrace will undergo a "face lift" of its activity room, which consists of an atrium and dining area, while structural repairs are made to the patio off the front entrance and the glass-paneled roof of the atrium.

The construction is budgeted for \$237,000, plus a 10% contingency, with work being done by Evangelista Corp., of New Hudson. The industrial-style kitchen will also see changes with new flooring and countertops. A new ceiling, flooring and lights will further enhance the dining area.

The patio work will include drainage improvements designed to redirect storm water off the premises and especially keep water out of the basement, where leakages have occurred. Replacing the window/roof structure in the atrium will serve as a better insulator against heat and cold, and also solve the problem of water leakage through the glass.

The 100-unit senior residence, built in 1978, is well designed with open spaces for gathering on each floor, attractive apartments, and a lovely wooded setting.

"It was time for an upgrade due to aging structures and systems," said Allen Terrace Director Tracey Emmanuel. "These repairs and improvements will enable us to keep up with the newer, nearby senior apartment living centers. Once construction is completed, it will be a beautiful space for the residents to enjoy for years to come."

There are vacancies at Allen Terrace and names are being accepted for the waiting list. To learn more or take a tour, please contact the director at temmanuel@ci.northville.mi.us or by phone: 248-349-8030.

Parks and Recreation office and programs return to Hillside

The Parks and Recreation office moved to newly remodeled “headquarters” at Hillside Middle School in early September. The programs and activities previously held at Hillside Recreation Center have also resumed. Program registrations, rental reservations, and dog park memberships are now being taken at the Hillside location.

Two popular events will return to the Community Center in October. The Senior Fest event will be held Oct. 21 with lunch from Lee’s chicken, music with a DJ, raffles and dancing for people age 55 and older. Cost is \$10. Participants will also be able to visit with many local vendors who provide services and products geared to older adults. This annual favorite is supported with funding from the Northville Community Foundation.

Younger members of the community – babies, toddlers and preschool kids – along with their parents/grandparents are welcome at the Tiny Pumpkins event on Oct. 26 (two sessions: 4 – 5 p.m. and 5 - 6 p.m.) Cost is \$8 per child. Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/3mn39bj6>. This fun, family-friendly event will feature crafts, a Halloween story read by a librarian from the Northville District Library, cider and doughnuts, and a picturesque setting for selfies. Kids and parents always delight in comparing costumes and getting into the Halloween spirit.

The Recreation Center is now located in the southeast corner of the school and can be accessed from Center Street with parking outside the entrance. The new offices have a more open feel and natural lighting with windows that look into the hallway, the gym and the front entrance. The front has a beautiful view and elegant landscaping. The gym has a resurfaced floor, and is close to the new family changing rooms and new restrooms. The “Crow’s Nest” extra-large meeting room will be used by staff and for rentals.

Roads, water and sewer infrastructure update

This was a big season for infrastructure improvements in Northville, with \$2.9 million being spent to repair and replace seven streets, install five major water mains, and pave two parking lots, among other related projects. The street bond funds approved in 2018 now have been spent – this early investment helps ensure that residents and visitors have high-quality streets for decades to come.

The construction season spanned May through September. Final projects involved repaving Fairbrook, from First to Wing; Fairbrook Ct. and Wing Ct. after water mains were replaced. On Wing Ct., pervious pavement was installed to help control stormwater runoff. Pervious pavement captures a portion of stormwater and allows it to filter through the surface onto certain types of soil. In this case, it cost 30% more than standard pavement, which allows water to run off without any absorption. This is a pilot project to test for durability, functionality and cost-effectiveness.

During this construction season, three major water main breaks occurred throughout the city. The water main break at Seven Mile and S. Center was an emergency and required contractor assistance. The repair cost of \$72,412 was paid for with reserves in the Water and Sewer Fund.

Bidigare Contractors performed the water main portion of the construction, while Nagel Paving did the pavement removal and resurfacing, and related work. Engineering consultants Fleis & VandenBrink conducted the engineering design work and oversaw construction of all projects. They also worked with DPW and the city Communications Dept. to keep residents informed of work in progress.



Kelleigh Tanton (left) and Shannon Coker show the registration area of the new Parks & Recreation office. Photo by Liz Cezat.

Ford Field.....Continued from page 1

Michigan grants, which come up in Spring 2022,” said Boyd. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan must contain the desired action items for Ford Field in order to apply for grants.

There are some physical barriers in the park, such as slow drainage, that need to be addressed. Yet there are also work-arounds. Instead of having high-impact events in the park in the near future, such as large concerts, people will need to be content with low-impact events until the drainage issue gets resolved.

Boyd is proud of his team. “They had a can-do spirit. There was openness to be cooperative and listen to each other. Most of the work was done in the subcommittees. We had terrific leadership in those subcommittees. We all want progress for the city.”

Subcommittee leaders were Rick Ambler, design; Krista Seifert, programming; and John Carter, implementation. John Arrowsmith produced the task force report. The Executive Committee consisted of Boyd, Ambler, Carter, Renee Conneally and Mark Gasche and Shannon Coker, both of Parks and Recreation. Boyd was grateful for the meeting assistance he received from

City Manager Pat Sullivan, Administrative Assistant Michelle Massel and Carlisle Wortman and Associates, which facilitated and recorded the monthly task force meetings. Minutes were taken and approved. Subcommittees met once a month, except for design, which met twice monthly.

“When the task force was formed, it was made clear that we would have one task: prepare a recommendation, and then those members who would like to continue working on the project would be able to raise their hand again for the next phase,” said Boyd. “There is significant overlap between the work of the Ford Field Task Force and the city’s other initiatives and I’m confident that many of the civic-minded leaders who joined the task force will lend their talents to the next phase of the project.


“It’s a beginning, not an end,” Boyd noted of the task force report. “Our ideas are designed to facilitate a broader community input.”

The task force has taken the ball and run some bases. Now it’s the community’s turn to go to bat and make Ford Field shine for the 21st Century by letting council know they support the plan – and making adjustments on the fly.



One priority is to build new stairs and platforms at the entrance of Hutton. (Photo from task force report.)



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<https://twitter.com/NorthvilleCity>

Upcoming events **Skeletons are Alive Oct. 1-31**
hosted by DDA **December to Remember**

Master Plan heads toward home stretch

The public is invited to the bimonthly meetings of the Planning Commission (PC), held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., as the commissioners finalize updates to three subareas of the Master Plan. Language for the Cady Street subarea is in the final draft phase and the focus is now on the S. Center St. and Racetrack subareas.

“Public input is critical to ensuring that the Master Plan Update of these three subareas reflects the needs and hopes of the community at large,” said Donna Tinberg, PC chair. Meetings are staying on Zoom due to the surge of the Delta variant. (Check the website or City News prior to attending.)

The Planning Commission’s intent is to send the final draft of the Master Plan Update to City Council in the fall, at which point Council must forward it to neighboring communities for comment. After hearing from those communities, there will be a formal public hearing regarding the final draft. The goal is to adopt the Master Plan Update as soon as possible but no later than December 2021, after which it will be sent to City Council for acceptance.

New concepts revealed for Downs property, Exchange prepares for rooftop dining

Over the summer, the planning commissioners ruled on several motions at their bimonthly meetings even as they worked to revise sections of the Master Plan (see related article). Downs Project – Concepts were presented to the commission and the public by Hunter Pasteur Homes CEO Randy Wertheimer and his team of architects and engineers at a special meeting held Aug. 30. For more detail – renderings of the site with building and housing elevations, park descriptions, and a City News article (9/2/21 issue) – view the city website (development/redevelopment) and (City News).

The Exchange Bar and Grill gained PC approval on Aug. 17 to build an upper deck that features a service bar and a dining area. A dedicated stairwell is being built that can be accessed from outside the building, made possible with the sale of a six-foot strip of land owned by the city. An attractive rail and greenery will allow for a setback on the second level.

North 320 – At its July 6 meeting, the PC denied the final site plan modifications proposed for 100-114 and 101-115 North Center Cove, an 8-unit residential building fronting Center St., north of Randolph. The builder failed to comply with several conditions, including moving the sidewalk from the edge of the street closer to the building. The commission approved having one elevator go to the rooftop since it is not visible from the street and allows for aging in place. One certificate of occupancy has been issued for unit 5, but others won’t be issued until the developer is in compliance with the approved final site plan.

Of note: In early June, the one-story building at Dunlap and Center was torn down to make way for construction of 150-156 N. Center, a mixed-used building that will have a first-floor restaurant and luxury one- and two-bedroom condominium units.

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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