

Northville Matters

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

New resource for people in crisis

The City of Northville Police Department (NCPD) and Northville Youth Network (NYN) have a new resource they can tap into for adults and youth in times of crisis. The services provided by a social worker skilled in responding to a variety of needs and her extensive network of resources are offering a way forward for these individuals.

Police Clinician Bellinda Mack is now an embedded part of three police departments – City of Northville, Northville Township and City of Plymouth – and NYN, based on a federal grant obtained by the township that began in January. In 2021, she was called upon as needed by NCPD through a contract with Hegira Health, Inc.

“I have my Mary Poppins bag,” Mack said, of her different office locations. “I grab the bag and go. It contains my laptop and folders of resources.”

All referrals in the city come through NCPD, which works closely with Northville schools and NYN to help keep kids safe. Mack provides

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An aerial view of the Downs and surrounding streets. File photo by CVMedia.

Downs site plan deliberations begin

The Downs preliminary site plan was the topic of a public hearing on March 15 where citizens commented on the Hunter Pasture Northville (HPN) plan to convert 48 acres of property at the Downs, along the south side of Cady Street and portions of S. Center, into a Planned Unit Development (PUD) with a mix of single- and multi-family homes as well as retail/commercial uses. Public benefits are proposed to include a daylighted river located in a 10-acre park, a 1.09-acre central park, and potential space for a Farmers' Market. HPN associates involved in the project are The Forbes Co., Oboran, and Toll Brothers. The meeting can be viewed on the city Vimeo page, accessed through the city website home page.

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City Council refines goals for 2023

At its March 7 meeting, City Council members re-prioritized some goals from the initial list presented by City Manager Pat Sullivan - teeing up some new projects for Fiscal Year 2023, which begins July 1. Projects include a new Fort Griswold play structure at Ford Field and added support to the Building Dept. to oversee new development. High priority items range from replacing and repairing infrastructure - such as a new storm sewer on Lake Street, to continuing to reduce legacy costs of retirement health care.

City Council held a special meeting/strategic planning session on March 4 with consultant Nate Geinzer to embark on a process of prioritizing plans for Ford Field, the Farmers' Market, and the Rouge Restoration. Many

volunteers on task forces and the sustainability team spent countless hours developing framework plans with the goal of having City Council act on those determined to be high priorities. Consultants Geinzer and Jaymes Vettriano are working with council to gauge priorities of these projects. Among the questions being asked – Are they attainable, cost-effective, of high value, and beneficial to the community?

Their companies, Double Haul Solutions, LLC, and Vettriano Consulting, will provide a report to council on priority levels of task force initiatives and other recommended programs based on input from council, city staff, the public and key stakeholders.

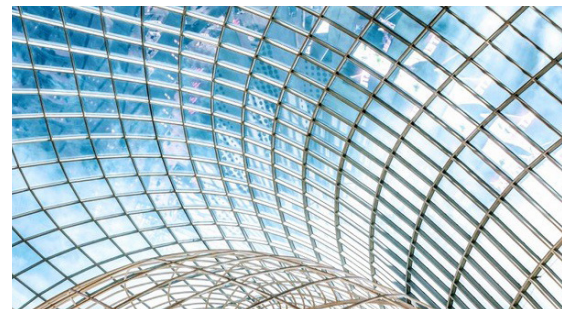


Photo by Daniel Watson from Pexels

A list of goals is posted on the city website (Government/Mayor and Council). When the new initiatives are approved, they will be added to that list. Budget meetings are held in early April to allocate funding for current needs and determine what funds may be available for new projects.

NOTICES

New sidewalks coming to town

This spring, approximately 4,900 square feet of sidewalks will be replaced throughout the city. The locations will be based on concerns raised by residents during the past year and inspections made by DPW staff. Merlo Construction, of Milford, was awarded a contract of \$62,330 for this program.

“The sidewalk replacement program improves walkability throughout the city’s sidewalk system, and reduces the likelihood of trip-and-fall incidents,” said Mike Domine, DPW director.

The replacement program is part of the city’s capital improvement plan for streets, drainage and sidewalks. The sidewalk portion has been suspended over the last two years due to COVID-19 reducing work crews of contracted companies. Also, the DPW performed some of the work using a concrete product that could be mixed on site, rather than being poured from a cement-mixer truck. DPW crews have also used the method of concrete grinding and cutting in efforts to prevent full replacement. Sidewalk replacements have been made when performed in conjunction with street reconstruction projects.

Siren sounds could be a test or the real thing

The outdoor warning sirens are tested on the first Saturday of each month from March through November, at 1 p.m. If the siren sounds at other times, take notice and take action. Every year, people are killed or injured by tornadoes or high winds, which can bring down trees and power lines, and also cause serious structural damage to your home.

The National Weather Service will issue a Tornado or Severe Thunderstorm Watch when weather conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, including the possibility of tornadoes. A warning will be issued when a tornado has been sighted or when a tornado or severe thunderstorm is indicated on radar.

The city has three outdoor warning sirens that provide advance warning of impending severe weather. They are located on Cady Street by the library, on Taft Road north of Eight Mile Road, and in the vicinity of South Main Street and Seven Mile Road. These sirens will be activated by the dispatch center in the event of a Tornado Warning, or a Severe Thunderstorm Warning with winds of 70 miles per hour.

The sirens will sound for three minutes, and this is your signal to immediately seek shelter. Go to an interior room, away from windows, on the lowest level of your home or in a sturdy building. When safely inside, check weather reports to learn what’s happening. Avoid calling dispatch just for weather information as they will be busy attending to emergency needs. Stay alert, seek shelter and stay safe. Oakland County has information on its website about emergency preparedness. View it here: <https://tinyurl.com/2xsjzey2>



Conceptual drawing of a new farmers' market by architect Keith Kohler, who served on the task force.

Potential site for Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market Task Force presented a framework plan to City Council on Feb. 7, which identifies a vetted site for the future home of the Farmers' Market should one be needed due to proposed re-development of the Downs. The developer, Hunter Pasteur Northville, has not yet offered a site to replace the corner lot at 7 Mile and Sheldon Road, which has been the long-time home of the market held Thursdays from May through October.

The task force’s proposed location is on the former Macdonald Ford site, which is the same size (two acres) as the current market space. Plus, there’s the potential to purchase an adjoining lot of 1.5 acres. The task force envisions the site to have an attractive enclosed building to be used for the market and as a year-round event venue with ample parking, a circular drive for food trucks, a small amphitheater (if the second lot is acquired), and a connection to Rouge Park, among other amenities.

View the report on the city website (government/task forces).

Police Dept. seeks state accreditation

The City of Northville Police Department is seeking state accreditation – a standard not required by law but one that shows a high degree of professional excellence in law enforcement.

During an onsite visit, a team of assessors from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC) examines all aspects of the department’s policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. The team must verify that the department meets MLEAC’s best practice standards by complying with 105 standards.

“Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability

exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy, and greater confidence in the agency’s ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs,” said Police Chief Alan Maciag.

The standards are available for review at the police department or call 248-449-9921. Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the department’s ability to comply with these standards should email nrossow@michiganpolicechiefs.org or write the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at 3474 Alaiedon Pkwy, Suite 600, Okemos, MI 48864.

GFL to collect trash, recycling

The city is entering into a five-year contract, beginning garbage collection and recycling (commercial and residential) including weekend dumpster pick-up when needed.

Waste Management held the contract for 14 years with GFL and Priority Waste. GFL was chosen based on the lowest prices.

Residents will receive a new 96-gallon cart for trash. A 35-gallon capacity can also be used with the second will be included in user rates. A slight cost increase for customers; commercial rates will not change and decrease.

DPW Director Mike Domine said, “The benefit is cleaner streets, increased recycling, improved efficiency and cost savings.”

GFL begins trash/recycling collection on June 6. Rates will remain the same. Watch for more news about the contract.

Downs...continued from page 1

The Planning Commission (PC) will review the preliminary site plan in a systematic manner using topic categories to focus its deliberations. These include such items as traffic/mobility, land uses, parks, streetscapes, and infrastructure/financials. During the review, commissioners will discuss potential flexibilities with the developer and consider which adjustments are acceptable. Members of the public can also comment on each topic. Commissioners may ask for additional reports as they dive deeper into items such as street configuration, daylighting the river, and topography/flood plain, among others.

Several reports have already been provided to the PC from the developer, consultants and city staff. A walkability review of the proposed project was presented by Dan Burden, a nationally-known walkability expert. The Downtown Development Authority commissioned a Retail Market Analysis from Gibbs Planning Group, which established a primary trade area that supports Northville's downtown, and forecasted the amount of new retail and restaurant space this trade area could support within the Cady St. corridor. In addition, the city assessor and finance director evaluated expected tax revenue

projections calculated by the developer if this project was built. Other reports provided by the developer include traffic studies, environmental conditions reports, flood plain analysis, water table studies, and other studies relating to land use. All reports are posted on the city website: Business/Proposed Redevelopment Projects.

PC Chair Donna Tinberg said, "We consider all the public input, all the reports provided from various sources, and all the deliberations we've had and then determine whether the site plan meets the design standards in Article 20 of the Zoning Ordinance. Based on that determination, we'll make a recommendation to City Council."

The Historic District Commission (HDC) also has a role in evaluating the Downs proposal. While the PC uses the standards in the Zoning Ordinance and vision in the Master Plan, the HDC uses the Historic District Design Standards and the Secretary of the Interior Standards. The HDC's review focuses on architectural design, including scale, proportion, hierarchy, ornament and materials. In contrast, the PC looks at zoning requirements that are more site-oriented, such as land use, street configuration, building location on the site, open space and parking, among others.

HPN executive Seth Herkowitz appeared before the HDC in February to present the conceptual plan that lies within the Historic District boundaries, including apartments, condos, 16,000 sf of commercial space, and row houses on the south side of Cady. HDC Chair Jim Allen recused himself from these discussions due to his landscape design role in the Downs project. In his absence, David Field conducts the Downs portions of the HDC meetings.

For the preliminary site plan to move forward, HPN will need approval from the HDC, a recommendation for approval to City Council by the PC, and Council's approval of the plan and PUD.

Once the PC's deliberations are complete, they can make one of three recommendations to Council on the Downs site plan: approval, approval with changes or conditions, or denial. They can also refer the application back to the developer for more information or revisions – either postponing the review until a set return date or with no expectation of a return date. If Council approves the preliminary site plan and PUD, then the project returns to the PC for final site plan review.

New resource...continued from page 1

a co-service when a police officer responds to calls that have a social service issue, such as a mental health crisis, substance use, school risk concerns and elders needing resources. She drives on her own so she can stay with the person and the officer can respond to other calls.

There are times when she and police need to take an individual to the hospital. She speaks to a medical team member there, which helps with the continuity of care. She may also encourage people to go to the hospital voluntarily, typically with a family member, so police don't need to escort them.

"I'm good at engaging with clients," she said. "It's fast-paced when dealing with clients on mental health issues. I like to put people at ease – they become less defensive and scared."

With a Master's Degree in Social Work, she is skilled at identifying risks and determining the level of care needed. This saves time and money because she directs people toward specific support services.

"I come up with a plan for the individual," Mack said. "If someone is suicidal, I complete a comprehensive risk assessment and find out about their support system and if they are participating in outpatient treatment."

Services selected are based on the person's needs and insurance, although some services are free. She may enroll people in services with their permission or follow-up when they enroll themselves. "If somebody is in a crisis, I want to make sure they are good afterward. I can refer them to wherever they need to go.

"Everywhere has a waiting list for mental health. I make sure they get the care they need to the best of my ability. Ultimately it's their choice."

Working with seniors on mental health issues or those who need a guardian is a new part of the job for Mack. She has developed

a list of resources that work with Medicare and also advocates for seniors who receive care from VA hospitals.

Mack said, "My services help people from falling through the cracks. When that happens, it's tough to reach out. Extending a warm hand to help makes them more likely to seek services in the future."

She notes that some people have the misconception that people having a mental health crisis are going to commit a crime. Often, it's a domestic crisis. Either the individual in crisis or family members don't know where else to turn so they call 9-1-1.

People in a mental health crisis can also contact COPE, a local community outreach for psychiatric emergencies, at 844.296.COPE. The suicide prevention hotline is 800-273-8255 and will change to 988 by July 2022.

Chief Maciag said Mack is an asset both to the police department and the community. "Already, she has done an incredible job working with our residents to get them the help they need. There have been several success stories. I look forward to partnering with Bellinda and Hegira Health for many years to come."

Mack's interactions are documented internally by NCPD and NYN and adhere to HIPAA (health confidentiality) regulations. Data is shown in combination with service calls on the police dashboard.

ables, brush

ing June 1, with GFL Environmental USA, Inc. for (residential), yard waste collection and other services d.

rs with renewals, and also bid on this contract along ed on its resources, positive references and competitive

ash and a 64-gallon cart for recyclables. Bags and bins carts or alone. One cart will be funded by the city, the ncrease will go into effect July 1, 2022 for residential umpsfers will be replaced.

s of cart-based collection include lower labor costs, ency and better monitoring."

. Pick-up of bulk items, yard waste, and brush chipping his program in City News and on the city website.

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EV stations electrify infrastructure

A total of 10 new EV charging stations have been installed in Downtown Northville as part of a contract between the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Red E Charging, LLC, of Detroit.

Level 2 charging stations (four each) are located at the lower level of the Cady Street parking deck and at the Northville Square parking lot near the parking deck ramp, and two units have replaced those installed in 2018 at the surface parking lot at Wing and Main.

“We’re really excited to have these new charging stations,” said Lori Ward, DDA director. “As part of the city’s enhanced EV infrastructure, they will fill a growing need in the region to be able to charge electric vehicles faster.”

The DDA was paying approximately \$4,000 annually to provide free EV charging. The five-year contract allows the DDA to retain an annual cost sharing of 3.4% of the revenue generated.

With a charging speed of 19.2 kW, it takes two to four hours for a full charge. Red E Charging notes, on average, customers spend one to two hours in the area while their vehicle is charging. The new EV charging stations can be found on many online locator sites.



New EV charger at Main and Wing parking lot. Photo by Lori Ward.

Register now for spring/summer recreation

Summer day camp, tennis, TGA premier junior golf, cardio drumming, dance, women’s boot camp and more – there’s something for all ages in the activities offered by Northville Parks & Recreation. View the spring/summer catalog to find programs and events to attend. Seniors will also find plenty to do at Northville Senior Services, with the home base being the Northville Community Center. You don’t have to be a city or township resident to partake of programs and activities - so tell your friends in nearby communities about all the activities going on in Northville. To learn more, view the Parks and Rec website: www.northvilleparksandrec.org.

Events *Visit sponsor website for details.*

Farmers Market

Sponsored by the Northville Chamber of Commerce
Opening Day: Thursday, May 5
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Corner of Sheldon and 7 Mile

Art in the Sun

Sponsored by the Northville Art House
June 17 -18
Downtown Northville

Flower Sale

Sponsored by the Northville Chamber of Commerce
Friday, May 27, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 28, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Corner of Sheldon and 7 Mile

Memorial Ceremony

Sponsored by VFW Post 4012
Monday, May 30, 11 a.m.
Rural Hill Cemetery

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.....	248-349-4140
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

Northville Matters editor: Liz Cezat
lcezat@ci.northville.mi.us

City News

of Northville

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