

City News

of Northville



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Meetings

[Agendas and minutes are available by clicking here](#)



City offices will be closed on Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday

City Council - Monday, April 1, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall or streaming:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88348684742> Or Telephone: +1 646 931 3860 or +1 312 626 6799
Webinar ID: 883 4868 4742

Planning Commission - Tuesday, April 2, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall

CANCELED - Board of Zoning Appeals - Wednesday, April 3, 7 p.m. - City Hall

Anyone needing assistance should contact the City Manager's office at 248-449-9905. More information about online meetings and a user guide are available [here](#).

Liz Cezat has returned from vacation as editor of City News.

This Just In

Strong attendance at Downs demolition/reconstruction meeting

The city hosted a meeting at the Northville Community Center on March 26 that drew approximately 140 people to learn about the demolition and construction plans for the Downs redevelopment project.

City Manager George Lahanas opened the meeting by welcoming citizens. "I'm really excited about this project," he said. "It's bringing a lot of great things to the community," Topping the list are a daylighted river, new trails and a "smart, sustainable development" that "repurposes land without the need to build additional infrastructure."

He noted the city has a lot in alignment with the developer, Hunter Pasteur, and its partners. He introduced members of the city team working on the development oversight who were present at the meeting, including DPW Director Mike Domine, Strategic Planning Director Wendy Longpre and OHM's George Tsakoff.

Hunter Pasteur Executive Seth Herkowitz introduced his team: Omar, VP of Development; Andy Milia, of Franklin Construction, Ian Sakwa, project manager, and Tim O'Brien, a project partner.

The project is beginning with a 6-foot-tall fence and wind screen being constructed around the redevelopment site, with security cameras at the entrances, and "no trespassing" signs. City officials who need to inspect the site will be accompanied by the developer or a partner representative, Herkowitz said.

Initially, after mitigation of pests and asbestos, the demolition company, Renascent, will remove 19 buildings on the site and a small building on the track, along with asphalt and concrete. These materials will be loaded into trucks and crushed off site. Spraying water on the debris will help contain dust and keep the trucks cleaner before they leave the site. Griffin Pest Solutions is handling the pest control and has found raccoons and porcupines on the site as well as mice but few rodents. This will continue to be monitored. Vermin will be poisoned and are expected to die within the confines of the screened fence.

A third-party consultant hired by the developer will remove asbestos and monitor air quality and post reports to the Hunter Pasteur website, which is being updated. They will also report on environmental contaminants in the dust, such as asbestos, during tear-down. Using water is expected to help prevent asbestos from becoming airborne.

A joint permit application is in process with EGLE and FEMA to daylight the river. The new river will be graded and stabilized before the crew breaks the culver at the south end, then the north end, allowing the encased river to flow into the new channel.

The sidewalks on River, Center and Cady will remain open during demolition and construction. Soil erosion permits are being obtained by the developer through Wayne County.

Hours of operation will abide by city code, which is seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. At

this stage, the developer doesn't anticipate weekend work except for the occasional Saturday.

Both the city manager and developer said they want to keep information open and available to the public throughout the redevelopment process. At the end of the meeting, they answered questions from the public.

The developer plans to have a pre-construction meeting with the city soon and will also attend public sessions held by the city to provide construction updates to the public.

View the meeting audio recording on the [city website redevelopment page](#).

Lahanas encouraged individuals to sign up for email notifications about the Downs demolition and construction, which will be delivered monthly or more frequently as the project gets underway. Articles will also appear in City News and on the city website, where a new landing page is being devoted to this project.

View the Hunter Pasteur website [here](#).

Photo: Architectural rendering of daylighted river. Presented by HP in November 2023.



Stay informed of new water infrastructure project

A special meeting of City Council will be held on Monday, April 8, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to review the water infrastructure project, estimated at \$24 million. An OHM engineer will present a report on the comprehensive plan to bring the city's water infrastructure to current standards and comply with EGLE's directive to take the water reservoir offline after replacing it with a new booster pump station. DPW Director Mike Domine will also participate in the presentation.

Municipal Analytics, of Ann Arbor, will present the results from a formal rate study to include shifting some of the consumption-based rates into fixed rates. The presentation will provide alternatives to funding the revenue requirements for the system. A utility system's revenue requirements include operations and maintenance, capital, and debt service. It should establish rates to recover all costs as well as meet a cash reserve requirement. Nearly 100% of sewer costs are fixed, yet the rate is 100% variable. More than 60% of water costs are fixed, yet only 7% of revenue is fixed. Rates do not recognize the proportionate costs of serving larger customers.

The revenue requirement generates an overall increase to the user rates of 10%, which is subject to Council approval. Council will need to provide staff direction on which mix of fixed and variables costs to implement going forward. Individual customers will vary from that 10% dependent upon their meter size and consumption.

“The public is encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about this major initiative for the city,” said City Manager George Lahanas.

Also included in the water infrastructure project is the replacement and installation of approximately 21,320 feet of 8-inch to 12-inch water main; installation of new pressure-reducing valves; and replacement of 35 lead service lines. What that means for customers is more even water pressure, no lead in pipes, and improved water pressure for the Fire Department.

The water infrastructure project is not required due to the Downs redevelopment; however, adding more customers to the city water service will reduce the water improvement costs per user.

Please note that public comment is encouraged in person; however there will be no Q&A session. The meeting will be live-streamed [on Zoom](#).



Public invited to see tree-top off on March 29 at City Hall green space

The first step to transforming the giant elm tree trunk into a carving that pays tribute to Northville’s history will begin Friday, March 29, at 8:30 a.m. The 21-foot tall trunk will be reduced to 10 to 15 feet tall for the art carving. The public is invited to attend.



Northville Tree Champions (NTC) has been working with city leaders, the Northville Art House, the Northville Historical Society, the Northville District Library, and the Northville Garden Club to preserve the trunk and create a work of art for the community to enjoy.

The artwork features the history and culture of Northville and was created by local artist Stacy K. Pearson. The trunk will be carved by Thomas Fink in April, with a planned unveiling on April 27.

History of the elms

For more than a century, two towering elm trees at the corner of Wing St. and Cady St. had stood the test of time, with their giant trunks soaring sky-high and branching out into leafy canopies that shaded the city park below. One was an American Elm and the other was an Augustine Ascending Elm, a rare hybrid, according to Arborist Jim Porterfield, NTC founder/president.

These magnificent trees had graced the community for generations, even surviving the devastating Dutch Elm Disease plague that wiped out millions of elm trees across the country in the 1930s-1970s. Hundreds of beautiful elm trees in Northville fell victim to the epidemic. These two trees fought to survive, but eventually the aggressive infection won, and the American Elm

was the first to wither and die. It was felled a few years ago.

The Augustine Ascending Elm was believed to be among the largest of its kind in the state of Michigan, towering some 110 feet high with a trunk that measures more than 12 feet in circumference. The city's heroic efforts to save the last remaining elm in the park with special treatments helped extend its life for a few more years, but eventually it also succumbed to disease and was cut down to the remaining trunk last summer.

Funding for the project will come from a \$15,000 grant made by the Northville Community Support Fund (NCSF). Northville DPW will assist with logistics of the tree carving.

Northvillians and friends,

Easter week is upon us ... To some, this is an extremely spiritual time of the year (Holy Week), and to others with young children, it's about the Easter Bunny and Easter egg hunts. We will take a look at both, and also see how others around the world celebrate this season.

Easter is known as the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection. It takes place in the Western Church on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern spring equinox. Ramadan is also celebrated this month and Muslims worldwide engage in fasting, prayer, reflecting and community.

See events and view my entire letter on the [city website](#).

Keep that Northville Women's History Month Faith!

Brian Turnbull
Mayor, Northville



Things to do

Wayne County Presents:

April 6, 2024
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Examples of Acceptable Items

Household paints, stains, dyes
Floor wax, floor care products,
carpet cleaner
Furniture polish, bathroom cleaners,
stain removers, solvents
Pharmaceutical Waste
(NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ONLY)
Nail polish, glue
Fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals,

Antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline
Automotive batteries and dry cell batteries,
fluorescent bulbs (all types)
Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors
Mercury thermometers, thermostats,
elemental mercury and electronics recycling
Computer CPU's, monitors, printers,
scanners, keyboards, mice
Cell phones, fax machines, copiers,
and televisions

Only household generated products from Wayne County residents will be accepted. Items that will not be accepted include: commercial waste, industrial waste, radioactive material, explosives, ammunition, 55 gallon drums, household trash, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste, roofing shingles, & concrete. For information on how to dispose of these items, please contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936. Visit www.WayneCounty.com for more information.

Location:

Wayne County Community College
Ted Scott Campus
9555 Haggerty Road Belleville, MI
48111



Public Services



THE SQUIRRELS

by Robert Askins

MICHIGAN PREMIERE

An Opportunity for the Northville Community to Enjoy an Evening Together!

Northville Tree Champions is hosting a fundraiser event at Tipping Point Theatre featuring the entertaining show, **"The Squirrels."**

(This show is for mature audiences)

When: Saturday April 13 (opening night)

Tickets: \$75

\$20 of ticket sales will support the Tree Champions' 501(c)3 and is eligible as a tax deduction.

Those interested can email northvilletreechampions@gmail.com with how many tickets they would like. When the tickets are released, NTC will make arrangements for payment which can be made by check, cash or Zelle. No credit card payment is available.

Season ticket holders for Tipping Point Theatre can donate separately from their season tickets. Checks can be sent to:

Northville Tree Champions
200 S. Wing St. P.O. Box 141
Northville, MI 48167

Those attending can also donate separately at the event.

Doing Business

How to obtain a parking permit for 2024

Residents can apply for a 2024 parking permit by e-mail, in person, or by drop box. Parking permits are required if you park a vehicle on the street or in a lot overnight since parking at those locations is prohibited between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. Households with multiple vehicles that require

one to be parked on a regular basis on the street would need a parking permit.

The application for the 2024 parking permit is on the [website](#). You can submit your completed application in person or by using the drop box (at the Police Department entrance) in an envelope marked: Parking Permit. You can include payment by check or money order – no cash – or you can pay in person by cash, check or credit card (3% credit card processing fee) when you pick up the permit. The cost is \$10 per month or \$120 per year. Residents will be contacted when parking stickers are ready for pickup.

For questions about parking permits, call 248-305-2715 during regular business hours.

Receive texts regarding safety issues through Nixle

Notification of serious traffic accidents, severe weather conditions, downed live wires and other safety issues are being communicated by the city's Nixle service. To receive text alerts to a mobile phone or emails, sign up at [Nixle.com](https://www.nixle.com). Nixle posts also appear on the city's social media platforms.

Around Town

Crime mapping link shows crimes around town

The city of Northville uses an online crime mapping system that coordinates with Oakland County's CLEMIS system to show the location and type of crime that has occurred on a digital map within 24 hours after a police report has been filed. You can also search back up to six months.

CLEMIS is a report management system that compiles crime reports from police departments in Oakland County, including Northville, and makes them available to the public. The NCPD subscribes to a service that populates the crime data on a map. [View it here](#).

Plentiful, free downtown parking

Downtown Northville offers free parking to encourage visitors to shop, dine and be entertained without the hassle of meters or worry about paying a parking ticket.

Parking on downtown streets offers easy in-and-out access for up to two hours. For parking of more than two hours, park in one of several city parking lots – conveniently located adjacent to most destinations. These lots offer three-hour parking and several also have all-day parking.

Park in the designated sections of the parking lots based on the length of your visit. On the parking deck off Mary Alexander Court, the upper level is for parking of three hours or less, the lower level has all-day parking. View the [online map](#) to see parking locations (Note: this map is being updated and will also include EV parking. There is no longer a public restroom near N. Center and Dunlap).

At Home

How to read your Neptune water meter

Residents in households that have the new Neptune water meter can access [instructions](#) on the city website about how to read the water meter. Keeping track of the volume of water registered on the meter on a regular basis can help detect spikes in usage and potential water leaks. This information can help homeowners make adjustments to their water usage through actions such as repairing leaks or switching to low-flush toilets and water-saving faucets.

Carbon monoxide detectors can alert you of serious airborne poisoning

A carbon monoxide (CO) detector is an important safety device to have in your home. It can alert you to carbon monoxide poisoning, which can't be detected by your senses but can cause severe illness with symptoms such as dizziness, headache, nausea and vomiting. Make sure CO detectors are placed in the right locations of your home and are replaced at the end of their lifespan.

For each floor of your home, place a CO detector on a wall about 5 feet above the floor and in the same room as a fireplace or flame-producing appliance. You may also want to place one in your garage since the poisonous gas can travel through drywall. If your home has only one CO detector, it should be installed in the main bedroom or in the hallway outside of the sleeping area.

If your CO detector is sounding continuously and you have signs of CO poisoning, find fresh air and call 911 immediately. Emergency responders are trained to identify and treat the symptoms of CO poisoning and firefighters use equipment to find the source of carbon monoxide leaks and stop them.

The general rule is to replace a CO detector every 5 - 7 years. Check the back of the device for the manufacture date.

Check the batteries on your smoke detectors

Smoke detectors are important safety devices to have in your home. They need to be tested regularly and replaced when needed. Test the battery by pressing and holding the test button. Some people find it easier to use a pencil to push the test button. While the button is pressed, you should hear a loud alarm. If the sound is weak or nonexistent, replace the batteries. If your smoke detector is sending off false alarms with cooking smoke, burning toast or humidity, it may be a sign that it's failing and needs to be replaced.

The general rule is to replace a smoke detector every 8-10 years. Check the back of the device for the manufacture date.

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View these social media platforms to see stories, photos and videos of the City's people, places and events. We'll let you know about City services, such as trash pick-up, payment of taxes and utility bills, and roads under construction. Plus, we want to hear from you. Share your photos and comments; ask questions. If you "like" the Northville Facebook page, you'll see our posts in your news feed.



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If you have comments or requests for specific news items, please e-mail Liz Cezat, communications manager, at lcezat@ci.northville.mi.us.



City of
Northville
Michigan
