

# Northville Matters

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

## Water infrastructure project planning has begun

The city is planning to upgrade its aging water infrastructure through a proposed series of 23 repair and replacement projects to improve reliability. The underground reservoir near the water tower served its purpose but is no longer the best system to use and the state has directed the city to take it offline. The upgrade also is expected to vastly reduce the number of water main breaks.

Project construction would involve replacement and installation of approximately 21,320 feet of 8-inch to 12-inch water main; closing down the city's underground water storage reservoir and associated pump station; construction of a new booster pump station near the city's connection with Great Lakes Water Authority at Baseline and Center; installation of new pressure-reducing valves; and replacement of 35 lead service lines.

The total estimated cost for all projects is \$24 million, which would cost the average city water user an additional \$103 bi-monthly. The city has applied to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for a low-interest 20-year loan and is also seeking grant funding through the state, which will receive funds from the 2021 federal infrastructure bill.

The city held a public hearing on May 9 – only seven people attended. View the presentation by OHM here: <https://tinyurl.com/nhhyac7v>.

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## Street safety in the works

The city held an interactive Open House with citizens on June 8 at City Hall to receive further comments on how to make Northville's streets safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

Fleis & Vandenbrink traffic engineers began a traffic study in May to measure traffic on certain neighborhood streets and on non-arterial roads between 7 Mile and 8 Mile and between Rogers and S. Main/Northville Road. Their report will be issued this summer on ways to calm traffic by focusing on safer people, safer roads and safer speeds. They already have input from an MKSK app launched in January for citizens to report problem intersections and other areas that need attention due to curbs, crossings, and other safety hazards.

The Open House also invited citizen comment on the Ford Field Master Plan, and on the Non-motorized Plan presented by Greenway Collaborative. A consultant displayed maps and visuals to show how the city's pathways, bike paths and walkways are connected (or could be) to neighboring communities and to county and state parks and pathways.

The street safety work is a collaborative effort led by DPW Director Mike Domine



*DPW Director Mike Domine and consultant Carolyn Prudhomme listen to a guest's input.*

with active involvement from the City Manager, Fire Dept., Police Dept., DDA, City Council, and the Mobility Network, a citizen-led task force.

Downtown street bollards are another component of new safety measures. OHM professional services has developed a concept plan for retractable bollards, which can be recessed into the streets for emergency purposes and when streets are open to traffic. The bollards and security planters will also enhance the look of the entryways at Main and Center, replacing the barricades and police cars.

## Ford Field Master Plan heads into final stage

The Parks & Recreation Department is coming to the end of a nearly year-long process to draft the Ford Field Master plan. The plan for Ford Field east and west will include a topographical survey of assets and limitations, new design elements and recommended features, landscaping improvements and more.

Consultant Wade Trim has created two concepts for a Master Plan and will consolidate those into one plan after considering public comment at the Parks, Pathways and Pedestrian Open House. More than 1,200 citizens have already responded to an online survey about

what they want to see at Ford Field. Potential amenities include courts for pickleball and volleyball; walking trails; a splash pad; a small concert venue; new seating at key vantage points; restrooms and better connectivity between the east and west sections of Ford Field.

The plan will also address alternatives to the Fort Griswold wooden play structure, and the entrance off Hutton, which has wooden stairs and landing platforms that are deteriorating and steep stairs that lead right into a ball field.

The Ford Field Master Plan, when finalized,

will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Board for review, comment and a vote for adoption. Both the city of Northville and Northville Township will need to approve it. The consultant will identify potential grants and other funding sources to help defray costs for new fixtures and improvements.

Public-requested amenities that may not fit in Ford Field could be included in other Northville community parks as the department develops a separate, overall master plan.

# Notices

## City will adjust utility rates on July 1

Northville residents have the benefit of timely, cost-effective city services that keep neighborhoods and the entire city operating smoothly – from weekly trash pickup to providing clean water and safely disposing of 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. A service charge is added to customers’ utility bills to defray the cost of reading meters and the billing process. The rates for these services are reviewed and adjusted annually. New rates on the chart will take effect on July 1, 2023.

Service	Current Rate	Rate on July 1	Frequency
Water	\$11.03	\$11.85	Per unit *
Sewer	\$8.35	\$8.85	Per unit *
Service charge	\$4.84	\$4.84	Bi-monthly
Meter replacement charge	\$6.67	\$6.67	Bi-monthly
Refuse & recycling	\$42.00	\$44.30	Bi-monthly

\*1 unit = 1,000 gallons

## Permit required for garage sale sign

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 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. Signs may only be placed on private property with the consent of the property owner.

## Minimize water use while tending to your yard

Summer brings an increased use of water to keep lawns and gardens green. To keep the cost of water as low as possible, remember to follow the city’s odd/even watering system regulations.

- Homes with addresses that end in odd numbers can only water on odd days: July 21, 23, etc., while addresses that end in an even number can only water on even days: July 22, 24, etc.
- People with automatic sprinkler systems can only water between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m., following the odd/even rules.
- Those who water manually with a hose (not attached to a timer), can do so between 11 a.m. and midnight, also adhering to the odd/even rules.

Using sprinklers outside the permitted days/hours contributes to the use of excess water, which results in rate increases for all city of Northville water users. Notices will be posted on the homes of those watering outside their required times/days, and civil infraction violations may be issued. (See the Code of Ordinances, Sec. 86-48.)

## 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 Department. Residents can pay their tax bill online or register to have their payment automatically deducted from their bank account on the due date. Visit the city website: Services/Finance/Online Property Information and Payments to view payment options.

## Overnight parking fines to increase

In Northville, a permit is needed to park on city streets overnight from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. Permits can be obtained on a monthly or annual basis. It is illegal to park on City streets overnight without a permit. If you are having visitors or work done on your driveway and must park in the street overnight, call the Overnight Parking hotline at 248-305-2790 before 10 p.m. the evening you are parking on the street. You will be asked for your vehicle’s license plate number and the street name. If you park without this approval, you are likely to receive a ticket. Ticket fines are slated to increase from \$5 to \$15 (paid within seven days), with graduated fees for later payment: \$25 after 7 days, and \$50 after 21 days. The new fees take effect on July 1.

## Summer infrastructure repair/replacement

Nagle Paving will repave Yerkes street and replace the water main in the coming weeks. Nagle extended the 2022 contract with the city and added a 6% increase for an amount of \$833,943. Nagle was the low bidder in the DPW’s 2022 bid for the Local Road and Water Main Replacement program. With the contingency of 15% approved by Council, the project will cost \$959,035. DPW and city engineers OHM are currently designing the reconstruction of Orchard Street between 7 Mile and Main Street. Construction is expected to take place in Spring 2024.

Sidewalk improvements will be made throughout the city, including spot repairs and ADA ramps. There’s a long list of sidewalks that have deteriorated or are a trip hazard and need to be repaired. Thanks to citizens who’ve notified DPW about areas of sidewalks and walkways that are now on this list.

*Water ... continued from page 1*

All questions asked at the public hearing will become part of the DWSRF application.

None of the projects identified is required due to the proposed Downs site redevelopment yet adding more customers to the city water service will reduce the water improvement cost per user.

City Council approved a resolution at its May 15 meeting stating that it recognizes the need to make improvements to its existing water distribution system, which was a requirement for the DWSRF application process. The resolution prepared by DPW Director Mike Domine was part of the consent agenda.

OHM and the city administration noted that delaying the projects will result in increased long-term costs, potential administrative issues with EGLE and ongoing problems with the overall water system.

The city should learn this fall about DWSRF funding. An independent auditor will conduct a water/sewer rate study prior to financing the project. When finalized, water rate increases to fund the project would be phased in.

The final scope of the project will be determined by City Council based on reports and recommendations by the DPW director, city administration, OHM engineers, and state requirements.

## Peter Davis recognized as Officer of the Year

The Police Officer of the Year is an award of honor among fellow police officers, given only when the year in review points to one who did a truly outstanding job. It's not an annual award, so police officers aren't vying for the honor – it just comes naturally from the work they do, how they approach challenges and their positive influence on others.

In 2021, Peter Davis was the officer most cited by his colleagues to merit the award. It stemmed from him being a team player, having a positive attitude and regularly accepting overtime to allow fellow officers time off for their families or emergencies.

While he was told that he won the award by Police Chief Al Maciag and Police Captain Greg Hannewald in private, other accolades put him in the spotlight. He received a certificate at the 4th of July parade in 2022 and was to have been honored at a City Council meeting after that. Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with cancer and had to take a medical leave for nine months. Six weeks after returning to the police force, he was recognized at the City Council meeting on May 15. There, he received a plaque from

the police chief and four proclamations: from Mayor Brian Turnbull, State Senator Rosemary Bayer, State Rep. Matt Koleszar, and Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki.

"I was overwhelmed. It was much more than I expected," he said.

He began policing mid-career, leaving a job at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor to attend the Washtenaw Police Academy in 1998. He met his wife Nancy at the hospital where she worked as a clerk. Upon graduating from the police academy, Davis took a job at Northville. He also has an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Washtenaw Community College.

During his nearly 23-year career, he forged a solid relationship with the community. "It's a great town. I couldn't imagine working anywhere else," he said. Of the citizens he has encountered during his rounds, he notes, "The vast majority of people are good. There's a lot more mental illness out there. There's a need to focus on getting them taken care of."

What he's proudest of is helping others in a significant way. "I have nine lifesaving awards and each of those mean a lot. It boils the essence



of policing down to the most important thing – public safety," he said.

In his spare time, he's an outdoorsman and avid martial arts practitioner. He enjoys shooting sports and precision rifle work and precision reloading. "It's an art and a science. You need to make the ammunition and firearm as accurate as possible," he said.

Officer Davis is a sterling example of the good policing that Northville provides to citizens and visitors.



## Derek O. Smith named Northville Parks and Recreation Director

Industry veteran Derek O. Smith begins his new role as director of Northville Parks and Recreation on July 3, accepting the position after a vote by the Parks and Recreation Commission and recommendations by Northville Township Manager Todd Mutchler and Northville City Manager George Lahanas.

Northville Parks and Recreation Department provides parks, facilities, programs and services through three divisions: Recreation Division, Senior Services Division, and Parks and Facilities Division. It is a shared service between the Township of Northville and the

city of Northville. Among its offerings, it hosts programming in special events, youth and adult recreation, camps, athletics and more. It operates a daily curb-to-curb transportation program for adults ages 60+ and people with disabilities. It is responsible for a variety of neighborhood and community parks and pathways.

Smith joins Northville Parks and Recreation after holding a similar post for Independence Township for seven years. He led a team of 16 full-time employees and 130 seasonal or part-time employees and managed a \$3.4 million operating budget. He also worked in Novi and led the Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority in Brighton. He has served on state and local professional organizations. He holds CPRP certification as a parks and recreation professional, which is the industry standard.

"I am excited to be given the opportunity to serve a community that is engaged in and supports a high standard of quality-of-life parks and recreation services," Smith said.

Township Supervisor Mark J. Abbo said, "Residents in the township and the city share his passion for recreation and the outdoors. We feel lucky to have him lead us into what we expect to be the golden age of recreation for this region."

Northville City Manager George Lahanas welcomes Smith, noting, "He's a great fit for the community with its affinity for walking, sports, fitness and healthy lifestyles. He brings a tremendous amount of experience to the position. We are ready to gain from his leadership and ideas."

Smith will replace Interim Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz, who was hired last July to run the department after a long career at Canton Township's Leisure Services.

Derek, along with his wife, son and daughter, enjoy a range of activities including hockey, soccer, fishing, camping, and skiing. They live in Hartland.

## Allen Terrace raises rents, adds amenities

The city has been operating the 100-unit senior apartment building on High Street for 45 years. The building has undergone many updates in recent years – including a new roof, renovated activity room and attached kitchen, and new doors and heating units for apartments.

On July 1, slightly higher rates will take effect for residents who are 62 years and older. Rent for the 98 one-bedroom apartments will cost 3.5% more, \$797; and the two two-bedroom units will increase by 2%, to \$1,183, heat and electricity included. In addition, the transfer fee for residents changing apartments within the building will increase to \$1,000 – it was \$400 for a one-bedroom unit and \$700 for a two-bedroom apartment. The charge for transfers still doesn't cover the cost of outfitting the apartment with new paint, carpeting and appliances.

Despite the increase, rates at Allen Terrace remain among the most affordable in the area and are approximately 20% less than other city-operated senior apartments in Western Wayne County, which do not include utilities. Housing Director Jolyn Gismonde notes the rent also covers a lot of amenities, such as activities, a nice patio area, free Wifi in the activity room and computer room, and new washers and dryers. Plus, residents can walk or drive to Downtown Northville, the Northville District Library, the Art House and the Community Center, which offers a lot of programming for seniors.



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## New Coffee with Council event

City administration and elected leaders have launched a “Coffee with Council” event to provide an informal, ongoing opportunity for City Council members to engage directly with residents in conversation regarding items of interest that impact the city. The first event was held June 15. Each meeting will be at a local coffee shop for 1-1/2 hours. You can attend briefly or stay for the entire session; there is no agenda. The city will provide coffee for the first 20 residents who attend. City Manager George Lahanas will also attend.

Date	Time	Location	Council Members
July 15 (Saturday)	10 - 11:30 a.m.	Mithai & Chai	John Carter/ Marilyn Price
August 17 (Thursday)	2 - 3:30 p.m.	Genitti's	Barbara Moroski-Browne/ Andrew Krenz
Sept. 16 (Saturday)	10 - 11:30 a.m.	Sweet Brew & Spice	Barbara Moroski-Browne/ John Carter

## Farmers' Market is open

The Farmers' Market is off to a great start on the season – offering Michigan-grown produce, fish from the Great Lakes, specialty food items, flowers, plants and crafts. Thousands of people come weekly to purchase farm-to-table food and take part in this Northville tradition. People of all ages are drawn to the market due to its wide variety of goods and expanded food truck section. This is expected to be the market's last year at the corner of 7 Mile and Sheldon due to an anticipated mixed-use development at the Downs. The market is sponsored by the Northville Chamber of Commerce.



## Summer fun in downtown Northville

**Enjoy weekend music** in Downtown Northville, from 7 to 9 p.m. There is acoustic music on the closed streets of Main and Center (every Friday and the first and third Saturdays) as well as bands performing in Town Square on the second and fourth Saturdays. View the line-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/bm3v24a4>. Sponsored by the DDA.

**Dancin' in the Ville** returns to Town Square on Wednesday nights, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A new dance genre will be taught each week, July 5 - August 30. Lessons are free of charge and no registration is required. Sponsored by the DDA.

**Tunes on Tuesday** – A weekly concert series for children and their families at Town Square in Downtown Northville takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. It is sponsored by the DDA and Northville Parks & Recreation. For weather cancellation, call (248) 449-9951 or visit the Parks & Recreation Facebook page.

Save the date for the Victorian Heritage Festival – Sept. 22 - 24  
For more information about these events and more, contact the sponsoring agency.

## 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
GFL.....	844-464-3587
Historical Society.....	248-348-1845
Library.....	248-349-3020
Mill Race Village.....	248-348-1845
Post Office .....	248-349-2062

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