

# Northville Matters

[www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us)

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

## Downs demolition moves forward

At a special meeting on Feb. 26, City Council members present unanimously approved the ARPA grant agreement with Wayne County, which makes the city a beneficiary of \$2.5 million in federal funding to daylight the river and landscape the river park on the property purchased by Hunter Pasteur from the Downs' owners on Feb. 22.

The plan calls for the river park section of the HP property to be temporarily owned by the Wayne County Land Bank to allow for maximum amount of brownfield money to remediate the site. The developer does the work and is reimbursed through future tax capture. Once the land is prepared for building on the site and the park is finished, the city will take ownership of the river park.

As part and parcel of that agreement, the city has entered into separate contracts with Barr Engineering to develop the river portion and with Grissim Metz Andriese to landscape the riverbank, including lighting, pedestrian bridges and sidewalks. The contract with Renascent Inc. involves site demolition. Of that \$1.9 million contact, \$600,000 has been attributed to the river park portion and is eligible for ARPA funds. Hunter Pasteur is responsible for the \$1.3 million balance.

Each of these contracts is financially protected through performance bonds by Hunter Pasteur, which initiated the contracts after its mixed-use development final site plan was approved by the Planning Commission and a development agreement was later adopted by City Council. Toll Brothers has purchased the southern portion, which includes the race track, for the single-family homes in that area.

The documents had "a complex review and were highly negotiated" said City

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## Roundabout design is shaping up

The second phase of roundabout design is in process as OHM Advisors works on finalizing the design plan for street improvements to 7 Mile and S. Center (Sheldon). The roundabout is semi-oblong to fit the 150 x 120 foot space at the intersection. Wayne County owns 3/4ths of the roadway and the city owns the balance.

OHM Engineer John Katers presented the preliminary design plan at the Feb. 5 City Council meeting. Wayne County and the Mobility Network team provided input into the project, which is being managed by the city's Department of Public Works Director Mike Domine. Also at that meeting, Council approved the \$180,000 cost to finish the design phase.

Traffic-calming devices, such as painted street stripes and islands that allow non-motorists to safely stop between the two oppositional lanes of traffic, are designed to provide safe passage for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists at the surrounding four corners. Design plans show that at two crossings, bicyclists can either navigate the intersection via the shared non-motorized lane or enter the roundabout. Trucks can traverse the roundabout by driving on a portion of the inner circle. And, vehicles entering or exiting the roundabout just south of 7 Mile will be able to safely navigate a stretch that has a steep slope, short sightlines and a small bridge.

There will also be a plan to allow for safe pedestrian and cyclist crossing at the entrance to

St. Lawrence Estates, just west of the intersection.

Two approved grants and one pending grant will be used to help fund construction of the roundabout. Hunter Pasteur will contribute up to \$700,000 toward the traffic feature.

### Other street news

- Sections of Main and Center streets in Downtown Northville will be closed to traffic spring through fall. Bollards will be upright at four corners and signs will direct traffic around the closures. F&V's study did not recommend any changes to the detour route when the downtown streets are closed. However, safety improvements such as additional stop signs and painted crosswalks are helping cars and people move safely in and around that area.
- DPW and consultants are finalizing a 2024 street replacement plan, which includes Orchard Street among others to be announced when the list is presented to Council.
- Following the F&V street safety report delivered to Council on Feb. 5, DPW is finalizing petition forms that will allow residents to request changes to streets or add safety features, such as speed indicators and stop signs. The majority of residents on those streets must agree and sign the petition, which is one of the tools in the toolkit to achieve safer streets. Changes will be considered by the city before being presented to Council for final approval.

# NOTICES

## Election Dates and Details:

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Primary Election on Aug. 6 and the General Election on Nov. 5.

### Candidates

View a list of candidates on the city website (Election page) when available. Anyone interested in running for county, school, state, or federal office should contact either Oakland or Wayne County Elections Divisions to learn about filing requirements and deadlines.

### Absentee voters

If you signed up to receive automatic absentee ballot applications, the absentee ballot applications (red/white/blue postcard) were mailed in late December 2023 and were quad applications for all 2024 elections. Absentee ballots for the August Primary won't be available until the end of June. You must sign and return the application to have a ballot mailed to you in July. Apply earlier to avoid any mail delays.

### Am I registered to vote? Where can I view the ballot? Do I need a 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 when available. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-349-1300 or email [clerk@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:clerk@ci.northville.mi.us)

## Request for overnight street parking now online

The Police Department recently added a new online form for residents to request temporary overnight street parking during the hours of 3 a.m. to 5 a.m., when street parking is prohibited by ordinance. To enter your online request, visit [www.frontlinepss.com/northville-mi](http://www.frontlinepss.com/northville-mi) and provide the details requested, including the date your vehicle will be parked on the street between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. (Click on the example link on the online form to make sure you've selected the right date.) Parking requests can be made for up to three consecutive days, not to exceed nine days per month. For longer time periods, you will need to purchase a permit from the Police Department at a cost of \$10 per month.

## Obtain free, essential Garage Sale permits

Are you having a garage sale this spring or summer? City Ordinance requires a permit for the placement of signs advertising a garage sale. Signs may only be placed on private property with the consent of the property owner and cannot be placed on any property located more than 500 feet from the place of the sale. Stop by the City Clerk's Office to be placed on a list. There is no charge for the permit. No garage sale sign permit shall run for more than three days.

## Heed sirens to prevent injury and property damage



To ensure communities are prepared for severe weather, emergency sirens are tested the first Saturday of the month from March through November, at 1 p.m. Northville Dispatch activates sirens in the event of a Tornado Warning or a Severe Thunderstorm Warning with winds of 70 miles per hour or when a tornado has been sighted or indicated on radar. The sirens will sound for three minutes. This is your signal to immediately seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest level of your home or a building. When safely inside, check weather reports or news stations to learn what's happening. Do not go outdoors until it's safe.

The National Weather Service issues a Tornado or Severe Thunderstorm Watch when weather conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, including tornadoes. Dispatch then sends out a Nixle alert – via emails, texts and on social media. (Sign up for this free service on the city website Police Dept. page.)

During severe weather events, consider parking vehicles in your garage or away from trees. Bring in items such as garbage cans and patio chairs that could get tossed around in strong winds.

## Farmers' Market temporary location

Now that the Downs property is transitioning from the race track to a new development, the new temporary location for the Farmers' Market will be at the Highland Lakes Shopping Plaza, 43041 W. Seven Mile. The market opens May 2 and runs through Oct. 31. It is open Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (closed on July 4).

Several new vendors will be selling produce and products this season, but there will be no food trucks. The market is bringing back 'Chef's in the Market' and plans to also feature musicians. The Chamber of Commerce, which runs the market, is seeking volunteers to run the "Kid's Days." Contact them at 248-349-7640 if interested. The Chamber-sponsored flower sale will be the weekend of Memorial Day weekend, May 24 and 25, in Downtown Northville.

### Downs ... continued from page 1

Attorney Anthony Chubb. He noted that all parties had several lawyers involved with the contracts.

There was much discussion at the Council meeting about ensuring the city was insulated from any financial responsibility in the event the developer did not complete the project. The assurance is that the city will own the daylighted river and park property in all scenarios. Chubb assured Council that there were two to three layers of protection in each contract.

Council Member Laura Genitti was not able to attend.

For the latest update on the HP development, read City News.

## Water and sewer rates

A water and sewer rate study underway by Municipal Analytics, of Ann Arbor, incorporates a 10-year plan that addresses the city's multi-year water infrastructure plan. As part of the infrastructure project, the city will decommission the reservoir in 2025 as mandated by EGLE (Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy). The city is applying for grants and other assistance such as low-interest loans to help offset project costs estimated at \$24 million. A web-based portal will be available soon for water customers to monitor their usage.



## New city dept. bolsters parks, pathways projects

The spotlight shone on parks and pathways over the last year with the adoption of the Ford Field Master Plan, the 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The common thread that pulled each of these projects together to enhance outdoor spaces stemmed from the new Office of Strategic Planning and Special Projects, headed by Director Wendy Wilmers Longpre.

When she began in May 2023, there was a major leadership transition in the Parks and Recreation Dept. and she had to determine, “Where we were at and what we needed to do to get those projects over the finish line.”

Her degree in landscape architect from Michigan State University and experience working in Parks and Recreation for the city of East Lansing provided her with a solid base to build on.

Longpre worked on the Northville projects with multiple contractors, including Landscape Architects and Planners (LAP), Wade-Trim, and The Greenway Collaborative. She garnered community input through open houses and surveys, engaged with various Northville task forces and their subgroups, and worked with other departments, primarily the DPW and Northville Parks & Recreation. She and the consultants co-presented these projects to City Council. In between, she sought input from the Planning Commission and kept the Historic District Commission informed.

When obtaining input from the public for community-based projects, Longpre said, “There is value in both surveys and open houses. Surveys reach a broader range of folks because they can be completed at any time, but questions must be phrased in a neutral manner so there are no leading answers.” Meetings, such as open houses, give people the opportunity for dialogue with project leaders. “It’s a good way to clarify concerns that people may have and educate them on key aspects of a project.”

This summer, work will begin on the two key projects at Ford Field. A new accessible gateway to Ford Field will provide a contiguous connection to Downtown Northville and the drainage structures of Randolph Drain at the Hutton Street culvert near Serenity Point will be repaired.

Longpre is also involved in grant writing to secure funding for various



Wendy Wilmers Longpre at the stairwell overlooking Ford Field. Photo by Liz Cezat.

parks and outdoor projects and seeks collaborative relationships with people who can advance those projects.

To move projects forward when people have different viewpoints, she said, “The key with consensus building is listening, not just to words but to their intent and underlying messages. Asking clarifying questions leads to better understanding. Finding out what’s behind their concerns can lead to creative problem solving so people feel like they have been heard. The end result often leads to a better outcome.”

In addition to vast experience in parks projects, Longpre also has construction experience. It came in handy when she coordinated the renovation of the first floor offices at City Hall, which house the DDA, Communications, and Planning, with two new meeting spaces.

What’s next for the Office of Strategic Planning? A green ordinance audit, a revised tree ordinance and landscape work on the proposed roundabout. Longpre and her team are looking at a fundraising campaign for the new playground at Ford Field. Soon enough, parks at the Downs will be built, requiring planning and oversight.

On a personal note, Longpre is married to Doug and they have two kids in college, Aidan, an engineering major at Grand Valley; and Katie, a freshman at MSU. In her free time, she enjoys being in nature, being in or near water, traveling to her hometown in the U.P., crocheting, and doing home repair projects.

## Seasoned police officer starts beat at Hillside Middle School

Educated as a teacher, Officer Patrick Lindberg has found himself back in school. Instead of teaching high school history as he initially intended, his new beat as the school safety administrator helps ensure that students, staff, parents, and guests stay safe on school property.

He’s based at Hillside Middle School but also tends to the security needs of Amerman Elementary School and Cooke School.

Wearing business casual attire – a light blue shirt and khaki slacks rather than a police uniform – helps demystify his role. Students see him as an adult friend and learn to appreciate police officers in all their various roles.

“In the hallways at school, kids will often high-five me or give me a fist bump,” he said. He thinks of his role as being another caring adult for the kids to talk to, yet he’s also prepared and equipped to handle any security threat or criminal actions.

He assists during the vehicle drop-off and pick-up of students at Hillside and Amerman. The mother of a student asked him if he could talk to her daughter because whenever she sees a police patrol car, she thinks the worst has happened. He happily obliged, telling her daughter about how he helps keep people safe at school.

He works directly with school administrators and staff on safety plans and protocols, including the district’s emergency operating plan. He also patrols the school building and grounds, watching for potential threats and assisting in emergencies.

During summers, he will assist with administrative duties, training, and

accreditation. He reports to Police Chief Maciag, whom he knows well from working together at the Wayne Police Dept.

He comes to this new position with an impressive background both in policing and as a trainer. He received a B.A. in Secondary Education from Eastern Michigan University in 1992. He changed his mind about careers after doing his student teaching and talking to his father, who then worked at the Wayne County Sheriff’s Dept. He was able to join the Sheriff’s Dept. as a deputy in 1993 and one year later graduated from the Macomb Community College Police Academy.

He joined the Wayne Police Dept. in 1995, where he worked for 20 years – in community policing, the Special Investigations Unit, and as a liaison to Wayne High School. He retired with the rank of lieutenant in 2015. Since 2008, he has been an instructor at the Wayne County Regional Police Training Academy at Schoolcraft College.

After retiring, he worked at the University of Michigan Division of Public Safety & Security, where he also did a lot of training.

In his free time, Lindberg enjoys spending time with his family and dog, Lulu, and has a creative outlet as a photographer and videographer.



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## Wheels in motion for skatepark opening

As we turn the corner into spring, contractors are working to complete the skatepark entrance and site restoration. The Unity Skatepark Grand Opening is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, at noon. The park is located at Millennium Park in Northville Township. Northville Parks & Recreation Director Derek Smith recognizes that skateboarders are eager to get into this amazing new addition to the community, but must wait until the park is officially open. View this report from Local 4 News: <http://tinyurl.com/54ean3mx>



Photo by Jamiee Kasperlik.

## Legacy Park adds features

Michigan's own Rock Solid Trail Company has been contracted to build the Legacy Park Trail Design Phase I starting this spring. The project will include a new parking lot off Wayne Ave. for access to the trail, which is slated to be completed by the end of August. The Legacy Park Design Committee is working on developing a master plan for the park, which is located on 7 Mile, west of Haggerty, in Northville Township. Stay tuned for dates to provide input about the park's future.

## Coffee with Council sparks lively discourse

Citizens are finding that Coffee with Council sessions with members of City Council and City Manager George Lahanas are helpful in voicing concerns and getting answers to their questions about city government.

These open format, casual meetings are a great way to have a two-way conversation with your elected officials outside of the public comment portion of City Council meetings. At that time, they can listen to your comments but can't provide feedback.

The sessions often become a group discussion yet also allow people to break into smaller groups with a council member or even converse one-on-one. The first session was held Feb. 15 at Sweet Brew and Spice, drawing 15 people to talk with Council Members Krenz and Genitti, and City Manager Lahanas.

### Additional sessions

**Saturday, March 16, 10 - 11:30 a.m., 160 Main**  
Council Member Carter and Mayor Pro Tem Moroski-Browne.

**Thursday, April 18, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Browndog, 120 E. Main**  
Council Members Carter and Genitti.

**May 18, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Toria, 115 E. Main**  
Council Member Krenz and Mayor Pro Tem Moroski-Browne

## 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

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# City News

of Northville

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