

City News

of Northville



Meetings

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Meetings

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



Residents may attend City Council meetings in-person and offer comments. Residents may also view the meeting live via zoom, however, comments must be submitted by email to PublicComment@ci.northville.mi.us by 4:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting.

Special City Council (Budget Session) - Thursday, April 11, 5:30 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall or streaming: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83001065122> Or Telephone: +1 646 931 3860 or +1 312 626 6799 Webinar ID: 830 0106 5122

City Council - Monday, April 15, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall or streaming: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83621202079> Or Telephone: +1 646 931 3860 or +1 312 626 6799 Webinar ID: 836 2120 2079

Planning Commission - Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall

Historic District Commission - Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall

Senior Advisory Commission - Thursday, April 18, 1 p.m. - Community Center

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](#).

This Just In

Water and sewer infrastructure, rate increases discussed at special meeting

City Council held a special meeting on April 8 to hold a public review of the plan to upgrade the water infrastructure over the next 5-1/2 years at an estimated cost of \$24 million. Since few residents attended the meeting, most will be getting their information from the city's news platforms, such as this article and the city website. In the absence of Mayor Brian Turnbull, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Moroski-Browne conducted the meeting.

At the request of DPW Director Mike Domine, OHM Engineer Chris Elenbass presented a report on the city's aging water infrastructure and reviewed the plan to maintain the city's water quality while improving the delivery system.

The plan involves extensive repair and replacement projects that will equalize water pressure, reduce water breaks, and deliver a more reliable water system that also meets the requirements of EGLE. A few years ago, EGLE flagged the need to replace the city's underground water storage reservoir since it could no longer be inspected and was at risk of taking on rain water. Since then, the city developed a plan/schedule to close the underground reservoir and associated pump station near Hillside Middle School and build a new booster pump station at Baseline near Center. This portion of the infrastructure project needs to begin in 2025 and be completed in 2027 to meet EGLE's requirements.

Other parts of the project involve replacing an estimated 21,320 feet of 8- to 12-inch water main; installing new pressure-reducing valves; and replacing 35 lead service lines. Much of the water main replacement will be done in conjunction with repaving older, worn streets. The lead service line component will adhere to Michigan's lead and copper rules.

New pressure-reducing valve (PRV) connections will be made at Potomac and Rogers, Baseline and Center, and at Cady near Wing. This will equalize water pressure in all sections of the city. Additionally, several areas will have watermain added to create a "loop." This eliminates dead-end areas in the water system and also enhances reliability and water flow.

Also at the meeting, John Kaczor of Municipal Analytics presented results of the water/sewer rate study that evaluated the city's current rate structure and also incorporated financing the water infrastructure projects. A utility system's revenue requirements include operations and maintenance, capital, and debt service. Established rates need to recover all costs and 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.

Kaczor outlined a plan that would issue a bond in 2025 for \$14.5 million to pay for three years of work and a second bond for \$8 million in FY 2028/2029 to pay for another two years. To help finance the infrastructure program, a system-wide rate increase of 10% is recommended. However, the individual cost impact will vary based on a customer's meter size and consumption. City Council will need to decide the best combination of variable and fixed components of the rate structure to implement. In each scenario, a new fixed cost called "Ready to Serve" will be introduced and is intended to cover a portion of the fixed costs.

To illustrate the impact of costs on users, Kaczor showed profiles of six different types of users: low, medium and high volume with different meter sizes – with and without an irrigation system. Those with an irrigation system who use a dual meter may not have to pay for the sewer portion of their water bill (currently set at 50%) that's used outdoors on lawns and gardens.

Council will vote on the proposed rate adjustments at a future meeting.

City Manager George Lahanas noted that GLWA offers assistance to customers who can't afford their water bills. He also said that any grants obtained in association with the project would reduce the overall cost.

Lahanas thanked Council for holding the meeting and praised the work of DPW Director Domine and Finance Director Sandi Wiktorowski, among others. He said the meeting provided good information for Council members as well as residents.

Council Member John Carter said, "As a community, we've shown the ability to work through challenges and find thoughtful and strategic solutions and work toward long-term plans. There's an opportunity here to establish a structure and approach to benefit generations to come."

View the video [here](#). View presentation [here](#).

Photo by Pexels



Visit the Northville District Library during National Library Week

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role that libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. The theme for this year's National Library Week is Ready, Set, Library! It runs from April 7-13.

The Northville District Library serves both the city and township and is a well-loved institution for all ages. Cast aside the image of the library as a warehouse for books. Think instead of a boundless space that's free-flowing, imaginative and has helpful people (librarians) who can guide you as you explore.



The Northville District Library is a place where you can gain new information, play with it and

interact with others while learning new things. You don't even have to go to the library to benefit from its vast resources. Databases, magazines, tv shows, movies and downloadable books can be accessed from the comfort of your home. You can also participate in a library event at a local bar or a beautiful park with family, friends and people you haven't met yet.

"The library is here for people at all stages of their lives," Library Director Laura Mancini said. "A library card is the most powerful card in your wallet."

"Public libraries provide access to accurate, credible information in a variety of formats representing multiple points of view. Along with that, residents can access technology resources, private and collaborative meeting space, educational materials and enrichment programs," she added.

A newer initiative of the Michigan Library Association (MLA) is protecting the right to read, which issued this statement: We must have places and materials that allow our children to experience and gain knowledge, engage in discussion, and use their imagination. Learn more [here](#).

There's an interesting history behind National Library Week, provided by Northville District Librarian Katie Rothley. In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less time on books and more time on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious: they ranged from "Encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "Improving incomes and health" and "Developing a strong and happy family life."

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. Through the work of the ALA and support from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

More information can be found on the library [website](#).

Photo: *Young girl reading a book.* Photo by [Tima Miroshnichenko](#) for [Pexels](#)

Learn more about autism during World Autism Month

April is World Autism Month – a good time to learn how this neurological and developmental disorder impacts people. Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is described as a “developmental disorder” because symptoms generally appear in the first 2 years of life.

According to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)*, people with ASD often have:

- Difficulty with communication and interaction with other people
- Restricted interests and repetitive behaviors
- Symptoms that affect their ability to function in school, work, and other areas of life.

Autism is known as a “spectrum” disorder because there is wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms people experience.

People of all genders, races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds can be diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Although ASD can be a lifelong disorder, treatments and services can improve a person's symptoms and daily functioning. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children receive screening for autism.

What are the signs and symptoms of ASD?

The list below gives some examples of common types of behaviors in people diagnosed with ASD. Not all people with ASD will have all behaviors, but most will have several of the behaviors listed below.

Social communication/interaction behaviors may include:

- Making little or inconsistent eye contact

- Appearing not to look at or listen to people who are talking
- Infrequently sharing interest, emotion, or enjoyment of objects or activities (including infrequent pointing at or showing things to others)
- Not responding or being slow to respond to one's name or to other verbal bids for attention
- Having difficulties with the back and forth of conversation
- Often talking at length about a favorite subject without noticing that others are not interested or without giving others a chance to respond
- Displaying facial expressions, movements, and gestures that do not match what is being said
- Having an unusual tone of voice that may sound sing-song or flat and robot-like
- Having trouble understanding another person's point of view or being unable to predict or understand other people's actions
- Difficulties adjusting behaviors to social situations
- Difficulties sharing in imaginative play or in making friends

Living and Learning Enrichment Center is a local resource for autism

Locally, the Living and Learning Enrichment Center, located on Griswold south of 8 Mile, works closely with individuals on the Autism spectrum and strives "to enhance the lives of our participants with disabilities. Through therapeutic, social, work-based, and community engagement, we seek to support, enrich, inspire, and embolden our participants and their families so they can achieve their goals."

The Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded by Rachelle Vartanian as a means of providing services to her son and others who are on the autism spectrum. It evolved into serving people with other disabilities as well.

The nonprofit also operates MOD Market on 150 Mary Alexander Court in downtown Northville. The store is an inclusive artist's market and unique gift shop, which provides employment training to individuals with disabilities.

The Center is hosting its third annual Hopes & Dreams Gala on Friday, June 7, from 7 to 11 p.m., at Saint John's Resort, 44045 Five Mile Road in Plymouth. Visit the nonprofit's [website](#) to learn more.

Learn more about ASD on the [NIH website](#).

Photo of Mod Market by [Liz Cezat](#)



You're invited to join the "Downs Reconstruction Update" email list

The city administration is inviting anyone interested in the Downs redevelopment project to join the city-generated email list to let them know what's happening on the construction site. Members of the city's team* will meet with the developer's team bi-monthly to review action plans, discuss concerns and resolve any problems as the project moves forward. We anticipate sending out monthly emails and will increase the frequency when there's new information to share. If you'd like to be added to the list, please sign up [here](#).

Please note that you can still receive news about the Downs redevelopment project in City News and Northville Matters, but the email notifications will be more specific about what's happening on site in terms of dust, pest control, sanitation, traffic, etc.

*The city's team working on the Downs project:

City Manager George Lahanas

Director of Strategic Planning and Special Projects Wendy Wilmers-Longpre

DPW Director Mike Domine

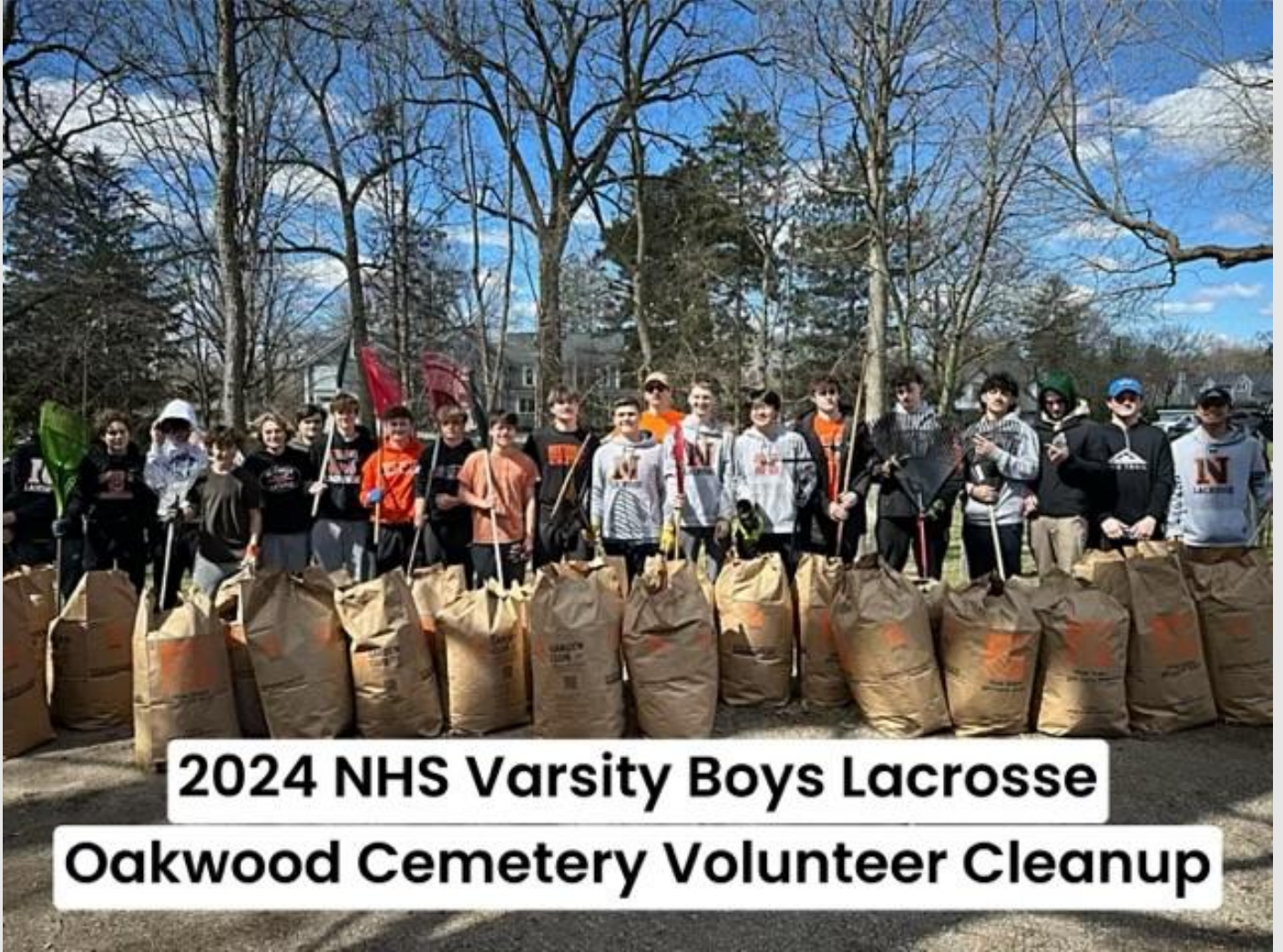
OHM Engineer George Tsakoff

City Building Official/Project Manager

Finance Director Sandi Wiktorowski

Communications Manager Liz Cezat

Director of Community Development



**2024 NHS Varsity Boys Lacrosse
Oakwood Cemetery Volunteer Cleanup**



Photos by [Stacy Pearson](#)

Northvillians and friends,

This month, the Northville Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual State of the Community address on April 26. If you would like to attend, check out the link on the city website. This event truly personifies the unique, bonded relationship the city of Northville has with both the township and the Northville School District. Together, we strive for the betterment of all in our local community. This is also our chance to present the City's "Way Forward" plans for 2024 and to celebrate the progress we've made – currently, more than 6% of our citizens are involved with task forces, committees and boards to benefit the community we love.

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

Keep that Northville Community Faith!

Brian Turnbull
Mayor, Northville



Things to do



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.

Photo below: Carver Tom Fink works on sculpting the top of the elm tree in the green space behind City Hall. This is an activity of the Northville Tree Champions. To learn more about the history of the Elm and this landmark project visit the [website](#). **Photo by Liz Cezat**



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.

Online payments for utility bills, taxes and more

Citizens can pay online for taxes, utilities, delinquent property taxes and other miscellaneous payments. Go directly to the [BS&A website](#) and enter your address. You will be redirected to the Point & Pay website to make a payment, which also includes a fee of 3% for credit cards (minimum \$2) and for e-checks, a \$3 fee for payments up to \$10,000 and \$10 for any amount over \$10,000.

Save time – schedule inspections online

The City of Northville offers [online inspection scheduling](#). Contractors and homeowners may schedule inspections using an online portal to request all types of inspections, such as building, electrical, plumbing and heating. Users need an assigned permit number, obtained from the City Building Department when using the inspection portal. If you are requesting an inspection for the following business day, it must be scheduled by 3:30 p.m.

Around Town

Have fun in city and township Parks

There are many parks – large and small – available for individuals, families and groups of friends to gather in both the city and township. Some are small pocket parks located within a neighborhood; others are larger spaces with plenty of room for nature hikes, ball playing or frisbee tossing. Some parks have play structures. Check out the variety of parks maintained by Northville Parks and Recreation on the department's [legend/map](#). All the parks are open to the public. (Membership is required at the dog park.)

Report water main breaks

Each year the City of Northville has between 10 and 20 water main breaks. If you see water bubbling out of the ground on City property, contact the Public Works Department at 248-449-9930 or 248-349-1234 after hours and report the location. The sooner the leak is identified and reported, the quicker it can be repaired, reducing the chances of contamination entering the water system and minimizing the cost for lost water.

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, open to traffic in early November to late April, 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

Northville Police Department has free gun safety locks

Don't take the risk of having an unlocked gun get into the wrong hands - especially if you have young children and teenagers. You can pick up a free gun safety lock at the Northville Police Department lobby. There are no forms to fill out and no waiting.

Maximize water use on lawns and gardens

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: 21st, 23rd, etc., while addresses that end in an even number can only water on even days: 22nd, 24th, etc. Automatic sprinkler systems may only be used between 12 a.m. and 5 a.m., following the odd/even rules. Manual watering with a hose (not attached to a timer), is permitted between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., also adhering to the odd/even rules. Notices will be posted on the homes of residents who are watering outside their required times/days, and civil infraction violations may be issued. (See the Code of Ordinances, Sec. 86-48.)

Sewer back ups

An individual making a claim for property damage or physical injury due to sewerage backup on their property must prove that the public sewer had a defect. Further, they must prove that the City of Northville knew or should have known about the defect, in the exercise of reasonable diligence, and failed to take timely action to repair or remedy the defect. These steps are outlined in the State of Michigan's Public Act 222 of 2001, known as sewer backup legislation. The legislation clarifies when municipalities are liable for sewer backups, sets standards to determine the extent to which a municipality is liable, and provides a process to seek compensation when a backup occurs.

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system and seek reimbursement, you must file a written claim with the City of Northville within 45 days after the overflow or backup is discovered. Claim forms may be obtained [online](#), by calling DPW at 248-449-9930 or inquiring at the front desk of City Hall.

When presenting a written claim, you will be required to provide the following items:

1. Copies of receipts for cleaning costs, plumbing bills, or other bills.
2. List of the damaged items and receipts to prove the age of your items. Reimbursement for the actual cash value of damaged items is the maximum amount payable.
3. If possible, bring pictures of items damaged during the storm water or sewer back-up.

The filing of a claim does not guarantee reimbursement.

Most homeowner's insurance does not cover sewage backups but insurance often can be obtained as an added item. Also, consider having a plumber install a check valve - backflow preventer - to reduce the risk of backups and related damage.

Follow us on Facebook (*Northville City Hall, Michigan*) and
Twitter *@NorthvilleCity*

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.



Add your name to the City News mailing list

To receive City News in your email, sign up below (if you are viewing the e-mail version) or [here](#).

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 | 215 W. Main St. | Northville, MI 48167

248-349-1300 | [Website](#)

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City of
Northville
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