

What is the NPNA?

The Normal Park Neighborhood Association (NPNA) of Ypsilanti, Michigan, formed in 1989, is the oldest neighborhood association in the City of Ypsilanti. The mission of the NPNA is to have a positive, lasting impact on the quality of life in the Normal Park neighborhood, and thus the City of Ypsilanti as a whole. Through active partnerships with other civic groups, businesses, schools, libraries, neighbors and government, the NPNA works to beautify the environment, protect property values, encourage compatible businesses, reduce crime, and foster pride in our community. NPNA covers the area bounded by Congress Street on the south, the south side of Washtenaw Avenue on the north, Mansfield Street on the west, and the west side of Summit Street on the east. All households within these boundaries are considered members of the neighborhood association automatically. Annual voluntary dues of \$10 per household per year are encouraged. Your dues, along with the proceeds from our annual yard sale registrations, make it possible for the NPNA to hold four quarterly meetings, neighborhood informational meetings, potlucks, and the ice cream social; print and distribute this newsletter and info flyers; support the NPNA website (www.normalpark.org); run the annual children's Halloween parade...and more!

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NPNA Upcoming Events

**Children's Halloween Parade
Saturday, October 31 at 2:00 pm
ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN NORMAL SINCE WE'RE
PARADING ON HALLOWEEN ITSELF!**

Although we have been fortunate enough to have the lovely summer weather hang around for a while, we are now heading downhill to the end of October, bringing falling leaves, crisper nights, and one of NPNA's most popular events. This year, the NPNA Children's Halloween Parade and party will be on October 31 itself!



The parade route starts in front of the former Ypsilanti Middle School on Mansfield, and will go along Grant and Pearl to Oakwood, where we will finish at the Senior/Community Center with a party.

All children and children at heart are invited to dress in costume and meet in front of the school at 1:50 pm. We are starting an hour earlier this year to give more time between the party and Trick or Treating. We are looking forward to having our faithful Ypsilanti Community High School band leading the parade! If it is raining hard, we will just meet at the Senior Center for a party.

If you are planning to come to the party, please bring a plate of cookies, muffins, or other bite-sized snacks. (We'll leave the candy for Trick-or-Treating.) You can either drop off the goodies at 12:00 pm, or you can bring them with you after the parade. The NPNA will provide the cider, and we ask for your help in providing some munchies!

We are looking for a few people to help us set up the center starting at 12:00 pm, or help us clean up afterwards. If you can help, please email Adrienne Meyer on adrienneandwarwick@hotmail.com or call 734-484-4677.

Come outside, cheer them on, and enjoy the band. Thanks for your support!

NPNA Upcoming Events (continued)

New Neighbor Brunch

Saturday, November 22 at 11:00 am

Open to everyone in the NPNA, this brunch is to welcome neighbors who are new to Normal Park. If you've moved in recently, let the Board know (contact information on the back page), and we'll send you a personal invitation to join us for this special event! The brunch is a potluck, so bring your favorite morning recipe! The NPNA will be contributing baked goods. All neighbors are invited to join us to welcome our new neighbors!

Night of Lights

Saturday, December 12 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Night of Lights has returned to the NPNA schedule! Night of Lights is an evening of strolling, caroling, and welcoming in the start of winter. Houses throughout the neighborhood set out candle luminaries, and it's a great opportunity to visit with neighbors before winter truly sets in. "Cider Stops" are scattered throughout the neighborhood where one can gather over a hot drink and treats. In past years, the neighbors hosting these Cider Stops have delivered some really impressive culinary creations, so you'll want to make sure you visit all of them! If you'd like to be a Cider Stop, please contact president@normalpark.org by November 13. We need 6 stops minimum, so don't be shy!

The NPNA will be selling luminary kits at the cost of \$5 for one kit or \$12 for three kits. Kits include 10 luminary bags and 10 candles. (You will need to provide sand, gravel, or kitty litter to help stabilize the candles inside the bags.) There is an order form on page 5 of the newsletter for kits. Kits must be ordered by November 30.

NPNA Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Fair Sunday, January 24 at 2:00 pm

By charter, the NPNA meets at least once a year to elect officers and provide an update on activities to the neighbors. This term's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for January 24. However, a meeting of just official business is no fun, and having fun is also in the NPNA charter (or it should be!). Therefore, the official business is combined with the first NPNA Volunteer Fair! Come talk with 10-20 Ypsi-area organizations who have a need for volunteers right now to learn how you can give a little or a lot of your time to help our community. And if that's not enough, the NPNA will treat you to some pizza!

If you are involved with an Ypsilanti organization that would be interested in setting up a table at this event, please contact president@normalpark.org.

Getting in your Neighbor's Business

Supporting businesses in the community in which you live has always been an important way to ensure your community thrives. Need a service or looking for a great place to find that special something? Check out these businesses owned or run by your neighbors, and keep our community growing! (Own a business and haven't been featured here in the past? Contact us for a listing!)

Cultivate Coffee & Tap House

Ryan & Bekah Wallace, Grant Street
307 N. River (in depot town)
<http://facebook.com/cultivateypsi>
cultivateypsi.org

Cultivate is a non-profit coffee and tap house that exists to partner with the people of Ypsilanti in providing sustainable solutions for hunger relief through local and global gardening programs. Bekah and Ryan are part of the team opening this venture. Cultivate is currently open for coffee 7:00 am - 3:00 pm with full hours to begin once they begin serving beer!

Anagram

Cecily Anderson, Elm Street
Graphic Design & Illustration
www.anagramist.com

Anagram is a boutique graphic design studio with a decade of experience serving the nonprofit and business communities. Services and products include message development, branding & logo design, illustration, annual reports, infographics, trade show booths, promotional items and books. Nonprofit and small business discounts available.



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Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand

Have you ever wished you lived closer to the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets? Wish granted! Earlier this season, Growing Hope announced the launch of the Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand (YMFS), with three weekly locations from July through October, including a stop in Normal Park!

The Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand sets up shop right in your backyard at the Regional Career Technical Center (1520 S. Congress, West of Mansfield), each Friday from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Other stops include:

- Thursdays from 4:00 - 7:00 pm at the corner of MacArthur and Harris in Superior Township
- Fridays from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm in the courtyard of the Towner Human Services Center where DHHS, WCPH, WIC, CSTS have offices at 555 Towner Street, in the City of Ypsilanti

Growing Hope's Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand (YMFS) aims to increase access to healthy foods in the neighborhoods in Ypsilanti, specifically areas that may not yet be coming to the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets, by bringing a variety of seasonal produce from the downtown farmers market to the greater Ypsilanti region.

The Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand is an extension of Growing Hope's larger weekly Ypsilanti Farmers Markets on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and also aims to make people aware that they can use SNAP and other food assistance programs at those markets. In addition to cash, each Farm Stand location accepts SNAP/Bridge Cards, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC Project FRESH, Market FRESH, and Prescription for Health.

With stops in the community through the end of October, the Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand will continue to sell seasonal produce, sourced from Growing Hope's urban farm on West Michigan Ave and from local farmers who sell at Growing Hope's Ypsilanti Farmers Markets and Wayne Farmers Markets. Currently the market has kale, Swiss chard, zucchini, collards, herbs, onions, tomatoes, apples, corn, honey and jam for purchase. Neighbors can stay up-to-date on the Farm Stand at [facebook.com/ypsilantifarmersmarkets](https://www.facebook.com/ypsilantifarmersmarkets), [facebook.com/growinghope](https://www.facebook.com/growinghope), or by calling Growing Hope at 734-786-8401.

See you there!



Navigating Life's Big Changes & Home Choices with You

Ann Zalek, REALTOR®
Seniors Real Estate Specialist
Your Normal Park Neighbor



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News from the YDL

Dia de los muertos with featured artist Daniel Gonzalez

October 26-31 at YDL-Whittaker

During the month of October, YDL will host an exhibit featuring the beautifully intricate wood block prints of artist Daniel Gonzalez. Gonzalez' work honors his shared heritage growing up in both the United States and Mexico. As part of the exhibit, he will create a traditional Day of the Dead ofrenda (or altar) to honor the deceased. He will also lead art workshops at YDL the week of October 26.

- Monday, Oct. 26, 7:00 pm: Exhibit reception
- Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:00 pm: Printmaking workshop (ADULT)
- Wednesday, Oct. 28, 4:00 pm: Paper Flowers (YOUTH)
- Wednesday, Oct. 28, 5:30 pm: Sugar Skull Decorating (TEEN)
- Saturday, Oct. 31, 10:30 am: Spanish Storytime with stories and crafts with noted Salvadoran artist Lidia Rodrigues Kaku.

An Evening with Roz Chast

Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:00 pm

Towsley Auditorium, Washtenaw Community College
The New Yorker cartoonist and award-winning author will discuss her book *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant*, which gives a frank, funny account of her experiences caring for her increasingly dependent parents. Join YDL for her talk, followed by a book signing courtesy of Literati Books. Free, seating is first-come, first served.

Sensory Storytime

First Saturday of the month, 10:30 am, YDL-Whittaker
A new program for YDL, this storytime is specifically designed for children ages 3-12 who have a difficult time in large groups or are on the autism spectrum. It will include stories as well as hands-on activities to keep kids engaged and learning.

Tutor.com

Available daily online, 4:00 - 11:00 pm

Is your 6th grader looking for help with his math homework? Need someone to review your resume? Tutor.com is an award-winning service that offers live tutors and a wealth of resources in every subject and grade, from kindergarten through college. Normal subscriptions cost \$40 per hour, but it's free when you visit www.tutor.com/ypsi and sign in with your library card.

As always, find all the details at www.ypsilibrary.org.

First Fridays Ypsilanti

First Fridays Ypsilanti is a self-guided monthly art and culture walk hosted throughout downtown Ypsilanti at multiple venues. Each month on the first Friday participating venues offer free art activities involving local artists, musicians, and/or tastings. The goal of the First Fridays Ypsilanti is to invite community members into the downtown area to support local talent and businesses while having a fun time! The next events are November 6 and December 4.



You can find information on Facebook and Instagram: [@FirstFridaysYpsi](https://www.instagram.com/FirstFridaysYpsi)

Update from the Rutherford Pool

This summer saw the return of many families and some new faces! The word is getting out that the pool is open. Thank you to the more than 100 individuals that took the time to fill out the survey. We are interested in your responses and will look how to incorporate your feedback into next year's programming and staffing.

Thank you to all those who volunteered at the pool this year. We had folks who donated time, swim suits, goods, shared their expertise with plants, organized classes and bottle drives. As a community pool, we really value and need your help.

Start saving your pennies now to purchase those passes or lessons for next year. Get your kids thinking about how to save the money so it is not a hardship come next year. We will spend winter time crunching numbers to help plan for next year's fees.

Keep an eye on Rutherford's Facebook page and forpool.org for updates over the winter. Contact us on friendsofrutherfordpool@gmail.com.

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amy@ajleo.com

AJ Leo
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Know Your Neighbors

Editor's Note: This is an occasional piece to tell the stories of Normal Park residents: how we got here, what we love, why we stay here. Join us and tell your story by emailing newsletter@normalpark.org.

John and Carolyn Weins

John and Carolyn Weins live at 931 Pearl St. John's parents bought the home in 1950, before he was born. He grew up in this house, the fourth of five children. John and Carolyn met through friends while attending the 'old' Ypsilanti High School. Carolyn also grew up in Ypsilanti, living on College Place and later in Superior Township. She would walk through Normal Park going to and from school at Estabrook and West.



In 1987, John's mom passed away, and John, Carolyn and their children moved back into the family home, on the condition they continue to host Christmas Eve. No problem. Their children went to Chapelle, West and Ypsilanti High School. Most afternoons, Carolyn and John can be found walking their black lab and black Pomeranian in the neighborhood.

John, Carolyn and daughter Kelsey are doing a joint art exhibit at the Riverside Arts Center in November. The reception is First Friday, November 6th from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. This will be their first family exhibit. Carolyn has been doing pastels and a few art fairs since 2003. Photography has been a long time interest for John. Kelsey takes classes in glass blowing and pottery. All are welcome.

"We really enjoy living in Normal Park. We know our neighbors on Pearl St and try to get together annually. It's a good feeling to see young families in the neighborhood and know the area will be strong for another generation. It's interesting to raise a family where you grew up. You experience the change places and people go through. It's also lovely when you meet those who remember your parents and what they brought to the community. 'Passing it on' has a deeper meaning."

Gary and Sarah Bowen

Hello! We are the Bowen family and we live on Sheridan. We have been here almost two years. Sarah is a stay at home mom to a 3 yr old girl & 1 yr old boy, and Gary is an environmental health & safety manager for Atkore in Wayne.



Gary grew up in Ypsi & Sarah grew up in Belleville. He knew as a child this was the neighborhood to be in. So once we outgrew our house in Ypsi township, we started looking. The house we are in now was our dream home! We saw the potential from day one. So we have slowly been fixing up the house. We say it's our 30 year project! We love the friendly vibe in Normal Park, Halloween parades, all the families & being walking distance to so many great, unique places. We often tell each other we can't imagine ourselves living anywhere else. We are so happy our kids will grow up in this community. If you see us around, please stop by to say hello. Love meeting more neighbors!

Beth Bashert
Sales & Leasing Consultant

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Beth Bashert is donating \$50 to NPNA for each vehicle a neighbor purchases from her and Dunning Toyota!

Night of Lights Luminary Order Form

Registration and full payment due by November 30. Make checks payable to NPNA. Please drop off payment and form to 1210 Grant Street.

Number of luminary kits (\$5 each or 3 for \$12): _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

If you don't write checks, web registration with payment by PayPal will be announced later this month. Watch your email and the Facebook page for details. Kits will be available for pickup in early December — dates and location of pickup to be announced. For questions, please contact president@normalpark.org.

Real Estate Update

The following homes are actively being marketed in our neighborhood (as of October 5, 2015):

1216 S. Congress	\$113,500
1005 W. Cross	\$224,900
1219 Elbridge	\$164,900
1202 Grant	\$95,400
1302 Grant	\$144,900
285 N. Mansfield	\$245,900
1215 Pearl	\$149,900
954 Sherman	\$140,000

The following homes were recently sold (March 1, 2015-October 5, 2015):

924 N. Congress	\$125,000
1201 S. Congress	\$180,000
1202 N. Congress	\$60,000
479 Douglas	\$170,000
306 N. Elm	\$182,500
905 Grant	\$159,500
1208 Grant	\$140,000
188 N. Mansfield	\$143,000
246 N. Mansfield	\$220,000
309 N. Mansfield	\$128,000
440 Marion	\$162,275
108 Oakwood	\$202,000
201 Oakwood	\$139,000
208 Oakwood	\$143,500
464 Owendale	\$165,000
480 Owendale	\$164,000
903 Pearl	\$134,600
924 Pearl	\$205,000
1007 Pearl	\$175,000
924 Sheridan	\$121,000
1107 Sherman	\$119,000
1214 Sherman	\$164,300
1215 Washtenaw	\$126,000
1109 Westmoorland	\$160,000
1213 Westmoorland	\$137,500
1218 Westmoorland	\$170,000
1302 Westmoorland	\$165,900

Dennis Longo, an NPNA resident and area Realtor® for over 30 years, compiled the above information. Please contact him at Premier Choice Realty (300 North Huron, Ypsilanti 48197), dennis@premierchoicerealty.biz, or on 734-961-6600 with any real estate questions.

Become a World Famous Author!

...or at least become famous in Normal Park! We are looking for neighbors to write pieces for the NPNA Newsletter on:

- Neighborly Advice (Share your expertise!)
- History of the Neighborhood (Share your stories!)
- Feature articles on topics that would be of interest to the neighborhood (Share (almost) anything!)

Interested? Write us on newsletter@normalpark.org.

Mark your Calendar



For more information on our neighborhood events, visit www.normalpark.org.

- **Downtown Halloween Festival** Oct. 30
Washington Street, 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** Oct. 31
Former Middle School, Step off at 2:00 pm
- **NPNA Brunch to Meet New Neighbors** Nov. 22
Senior Center, 11:00 am
- **NPNA Night of Lights** Dec. 12
All around Normal Park, starting at 6:00 pm!
- **DIYpsi Holiday Market** Dec. 12-13
Riverside Arts Center
- **NPNA Meeting & Ypsi Volunteer Fair** Jan. 24
Senior Center, 2:00 pm

Contact the NPNA Board

If you have questions about our neighborhood, items you would like discussed at the next board meeting, or information on opportunities to volunteer, please contact us!

By telephone: 734-985-0031
By email: president@normalpark.org
On the web: www.normalpark.org

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About this Newsletter

Inclusion of submitted content, including advertisements, in the NPNA newsletter does not reflect an endorsement by the Normal Park Neighborhood Association or its Board.