

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!

The Call to Get Involved

NPNA activities are run by a small band of neighbors who volunteer their time and effort to help make our neighborhood vibrant. Have you been interested in supporting an event or starting a new one? Have ideas about how the NPNA can impact our community? Drop the board a line by contacting Dawn Keech on president@normalpark.org and let us know that you're interested in learning more!

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NPNA Upcoming Events

Children's Halloween Parade Saturday, October 26 at 3:00 pm

It's time again for one of our neighborhood's most popular events: our annual children's Halloween Parade and party! 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.

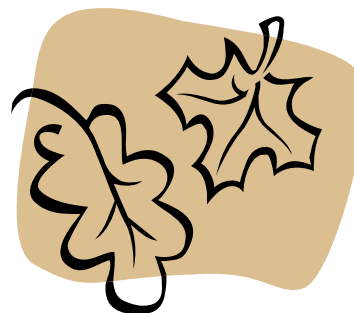
All children and children at heart are invited to dress in costume and meet in front of the school at 2:50 pm. We're thrilled to report that members of the Ypsilanti Community High School will lead the parade! If it is raining hard, we will just meet at the Senior Center for a party.



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.



*Autumn...that special time
of the year when
the leaves fall,
the pumpkins are picked,
...and when the
"Ypsi Terriers" we all
smell and love go to into
their dens for the winter.*



Neighborly Advice

Caring for your Cat: Symptoms of Feline Heart Disease

Joanne Marbut, N. Summit

Ed. Note: Because we have many animal lovers in this neighborhood, Joanne wanted to pass along information from her own experience that could be helpful to the cat owners in Normal Park.

Feline heart disease often suddenly appears in a cat. Cats may seem well one minute but then suddenly collapse or die. As owners of an HCM cat, we know the shock of finding that your precious cat has the fatal disease. But we also know that with medications, supplements, etc., the progression of the disease can be slowed.

Our four year old cat, Myrna Loy, was the picture of health as a kitten even with a heart murmur. When she was given steroids for a lesion, she stopped eating, began to breathe heavily, and then one night, collapsed. Animal emergency stabilized her. The next day, we met with the cardiologist who did a heart echo. We then learned that Myrna had Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM), a fatal heart disease. The reason for the collapse was congestive heart failure (CHF) brought on by steroids. We didn't know that due to her heart murmur she shouldn't have had steroids, which promote fluid retention, and should have seen the cardiologist sooner.

Hypertrophy describes the thickening of the heart valve walls. As the heart valve thickens, it is unable to take in all of the fluid. Fluid then drains into the lungs or chest leading to CHF. Only a heart echo by a cardiologist can determine the extent of the heart disease. While almost any cat can have heart disease, certain breeds such as Maine Coon and Siamese are prone to the disease and should be tested. A cat can present with many symptoms early in life or be asymptomatic for years until older. Symptoms include a change in activity level, may be suddenly lame, screaming in pain, fainting, or confused. They will have difficulty breathing as congestion forms and will have faster chest movements. Immediate treatment is necessary for all symptoms.

Medications can slow the progression of the disease and improve heart function and prevent CHF. Additional supplements improve the overall health of the cat. Care must be taken to decrease stress in a cat's environment as stress can lead to congestion. The cost of care can be expensive and there are pet health insurances online and a line of credit called Care Credit that can help cover expenses.

While Myrna's disease is progressing, she continues to be stable even as we fight congestion.

For further information on medications, supplements, cardiologist, etc. please see the blog post at: <http://myrnaloycardiomyopathy.blogspot.com/2013/09/article-taking-care-of-cat-that-has.html>

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 and 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!)

Kirsten Mowrey, NCTMB, LMT

Kirsten Mowrey, Oakwood Street

Have you ever had a massage and dreaded getting in your car for the commute home? Now you don't have to! Kirsten Mowrey offers massage therapy from her home office here in Normal Park, so you can receive a session and saunter home fully relaxed. Kirsten has 18 years of professional experience, working with a variety of medical diagnoses, athletes or folks living stressful lives, and has worked with people aged 8 to 80.

734-716-2930

website: www.kirstenmowreynctmb.com

email: kirsten@kirstenmowreynctmb.com



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

News from the YDL

Mary Garboden, YDL

What's happening at the Ypsilanti District Library?

Muslim Journeys Exhibit, Oct. 1-31 (YDL-Whittaker). This exhibit from the Arab American National Museum celebrates Muslim culture and heritage. The reception on Sunday, October 20 at 2:00 pm will feature a presentation by EMU professor emeritus Dr. Janice Terry. Co-sponsored with Eastern Michigan University and the Michigan Humanities Council.

Halloween Downtown, Oct. 25 (YDL-Michigan). While you're enjoying Halloween downtown (from 5:00 - 6:30 pm), drop by the Library Plaza to pick up a bag of popcorn, play a game, or win a book in the library plaza. Visit the Boo!Mobile for fun give-aways in the parking lot behind the Library Plaza.

Roy Blount, Jr., Nov. 7, 7:30pm (Pease Auditorium). YDL is pleased to present an appearance by Roy Blount, Jr. at Pease Auditorium. The celebrated author & humorist is a frequent guest on NPR's "Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me" and "A Prairie Home Companion." This event is free and open to the public.

Remember, the YDL Bookmobile visits the neighborhood every Thursday from 5:35 - 6:10 pm at Sherman and Wallace. Check out ypsilibrary.org for more exciting library happenings!

New Neighbor Committee

Lois Plantefaber, Chair

A huge thank you to Jim Carbone who has welcomed new neighbors over the past few years, but is ready to hand over the bags to a new committee. New chair Lois Plantefaber is looking for people who can spare an hour over the next six months to collect items from the Visitors/Convention Bureau and businesses, put together and deliver welcome bags, and notify committee members when new neighbors move in or when For Sale/Sold signs appear.

A Welcome Letter highlights the activities of NPNA and Ypsilanti, but she would also like to include "Insiders Secrets" ... what do you wish you had known when you moved in? What's your favorite resource, event, business, go-to spot in Ypsilanti? Lois would like to hear from you!

Have you moved into Normal Park within the last 6 months? If you did not receive a Welcome Bag and would like one, please contact Lois on 734-482-8183 or email plantemaher@gmail.com.

COPAC: Join the Conversation

Christine Moellering, Rep to COPAC from Normal Park

Community Policing Action Council (COPAC), a partnership between Ypsilanti residents and the Ypsilanti police, was originally formed to discuss safety and quality of life issues for everyone in the city of Ypsilanti. COPAC meetings are quarterly with someone representing each neighborhood or city group. All are welcome to attend the open meetings (which are kept short). Residents and local businesses can bring any concerns to the meetings, but lighter topics such as city wide and neighborhood events are also discussed. The police department always sends a representative, either an officer or the chief, and the group has open discussions about any concerns. Communication with the neighborhoods who represent themselves at these meetings has helped solve problems such as break-ins around town. Community groups such as Bike Ypsi have also presented information on their local community activities. In addition, each year COPAC holds a picnic at a park in the city that is free to everyone living in Ypsilanti. There is a COPAC email group to help disseminate information out to all the groups around the city.

Getting involved in COPAC is a great way to meet people from all over town and learn of their own respective neighborhoods, and it's another way Ypsi residents work together to become a more tightly-knit community. If you are interested in attending a COPAC meeting, contact Christine Moellering, the Normal Park representative, or look up the COPAC calendar at www.ypsicopac.org

News from the YCS

Emma Jackson, WISD

Community partnerships are critical to creating meaningful learning opportunities for students. Ypsilanti Community Schools recognizes the importance of local alliances and has already partnered with many groups in preparing for and launching the new district. A new partnership with an environmental focus is gaining traction. Betty Brigade founder, Sharon McRill, is passionate about the environment and is working with YCS to create an environmental awareness and recycling effort that will involve students, families, staff and community members. Two fall cleanup dates have already been identified: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Oct. 5 and again on Oct. 19. Ms. McRill would like to turn the cleanup initiative into a learning experience and is working with science teachers to propose extra credit for research papers that chart the impact litter has on the local environment. She is also reaching out to area businesses to explore a district recycling program. Ms. McRill said community volunteers are needed to act as site coordinators for the two cleanup dates (locations will be determined soon). Ms. McRill is happy with the response of the partnership with YCS, "I love that YCS wants to participate and that they are excited about it." Ms. McRill said details will be on their facebook page and announcements will be posted on the YCS

News from your Neighbor

Do you have information to share about a public event or activity happening in Normal Park? Submit it for inclusion in the next newsletter. All information is welcome; however, political statements/solicitations are not published.

Pioneer Clubs for Children

Lori Mosher, Sherman Street

Attention parents of school-age children! If you are looking for a fun & wholesome midweek activity for your children to get involved in that is nearby & inexpensive, look no further than First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti!

Pioneer Clubs® is a proven non-denominational ministry for today's kids. FBCY (1110 W. Cross St.) offers this program for children age 4 through grade 5. Each week kids participate in a variety of activities to earn badges. They can earn cloth badge awards for completing skill-building activities in a noncompetitive atmosphere that fosters cooperation and teamwork. These activities help kids develop a variety of life skills, such as art, sports, music, first aid, hiking, woodworking, drama and lots more. Throughout the year, we hold special fun nights like Game Night & PJ Party & Movie Night, & we close out our club year with a Family BBQ & Race Night in May, when kids race pine cars or sailboats they have made.

Our Pioneer Club meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Registration, club vest & handbook is \$40.00 per year (Sept. – May)

Children age 4 to K, Scooters
Children grades 1 & 2, Voyagers
Children grades 3-5, Pathfinders

Youth group (middle school – high school) & the adult Celebration Service (our informal service of praise & bible study) also meets at this time.

We would love your kids to join us! If you have any questions about this program or FBCY, please contact the church @ 734-482-7380 or Lori Mosher @ 734-926-1352.

Advertise in this Newsletter

The NPNA newsletter is printed 2-3 times a year and reaches over 800 households in Ypsilanti. A business card sized ad is only \$30 per issue or \$100 for 4 issues. In addition to dues and the annual yard sale, advertisements are a key way to fund the printing of this newsletter. Interested in advertising in the newsletter? Write newsletter@normalpark.org!



Mermaid Car Swimming through NP!

Neighbors Lisa & Beth Bashert at 909 Grant Street have had a lucky fall! In July, they bought 5 raffle tickets to support an art center in NW Michigan and on Friday, 9/13/13, they were astonished to learn that they actually won the grand prize, an '89 Chrysler LeBaron convertible completely transformed by artistically applied mosaic tile. The "mermaid car" is drivable and you may catch a glimpse of it tooling around the neighborhood. Lisa & Beth are still considering how they can best enjoy the convertible, but look for it in this year's Halloween Parade!



9 Live House Concerts

Diane Zahn, Wallace Street

Diane Zahn is very pleased and excited to be hosting another season of shows at her home at 9 N. Wallace.

Remaining 2013-2014 Season Dates and Artists are:

December 6: Jason Dennie - www.jasondennie.com
February 7: Bill Edwards - www.edwardsongs.com
May 2: Billy King - www.billykingdom.com

Show basics:

8 pm show, all dates, with doors open at ~7:30pm. RSVP Diane and confirm seats [room/chairs for about 30-35 folks, if everybody can be cozy] either to danz@sprynet.com or 734-482-1527. First come, first served, until space is gone. \$10 donation per person (all proceeds for the performers) will be taken at the door. Folks without RSVP will be seated at show time as space permits. For other questions or more info, email or call Diane. She'll see you at the show!

Rutherford Pool Update

Cathy Thorburn

Summer is officially over but work is still continuing on Rutherford Pool. Decisions are being made daily from what type of slide to put in, what electrical lights to put up, to picking out colors for the tile in the pool and for the shingles on the roof of the new shed.

Mother Nature cooperated for most of the summer and work progressed on time. A major decision to make now is if we are going to have the final plaster done before winter or wait until springtime. If we do it now, we will have to try and keep the plaster clean and covered right after it is done.

We are working on the plumbing and electrical issues of the bathhouse. It is our hope to get the plumbing and electrical parts in place this fall so this spring we can paint and spruce up the inside. Over the winter we will work on pricing, programming and staffing.

We have had a couple of work days where volunteers donned masks and glasses to scrape the peeling paint off the ceiling and vents. Another day, volunteers worked on scrubbing the vinyl chairs and tossing those that were past the possibility of being used.

It is still possible to order a brick. Think about what a great gift this would make for the holidays or birthdays. WWW.BRICKSRUS.COM/ORDER/FORP Additionally, donations are still being accepted (that will never stop!). Please make checks out to Friends of Rutherford Pool and mail or drop off at 1206 Pearl Street Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

If you would like to see some of the progress from start to present, check out www.forpool.org to see our website that was built this summer. Some pictures are also posted on the Rutherford Pool Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you next summer in your suits and goggles! Keep an eye out for future volunteer days.



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Real Estate Update

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood (as of September 16, 2013):

1006 West Cross	\$165,000
359 North Mansfield	\$169,800
90 Oakwood	\$144,900
201 Oakwood	\$159,900
914 Pearl	\$130,000
1215 Pearl	\$134,900
914 Sheridan	\$143,500
1207 Sherman	\$119,900
209 North Wallace	\$198,900
1216 Westmoorland	\$189,800

The following homes were recently sold (as of September 16, 2013):

913 North Congress	\$135,000
118 North Congress	\$131,500
1120 North Congress	\$132,400
1312 North Congress	\$126,000
415 Courtland	\$139,000
1113 Grant	\$139,900
1121 Grant	\$147,500
114 Linden Court	\$165,000
122 Linden Court	\$160,000
28 North Mansfield	\$55,000
130 North Mansfield	\$175,000
180 North Mansfield	\$135,000
188 North Mansfield	\$131,850
468 North Mansfield	\$129,900
9 Oakwood	\$155,000
106 Oakwood	\$150,500
229 Oakwood	\$50,000
359 Owendale	\$90,000
1103 Pearl	\$167,000
922 Sheridan	\$134,300
310 North Wallace	\$147,000
1111 Westmoorland	\$91,913
913 Woods Drive	\$104,500

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 25
Washington Street, 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- **3rd Depot Town Harvest Fest** Oct 26
Cross Street, 10:00 am
- **Children's Halloween Parade** Oct 26
Middle School, Step off at 3:00 pm
- **Craft Circus** (formerly Art in the Park) Nov. 9
Senior Center, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
- **Holiday Home Tour** Dec. 14
Ypsilanti, citywide
- **D.I.Ypsi** Dec. 14
Corner Brewery

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.