



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 neighborhood events; print and distribute this newsletter and info flyers; support the NPNA website (www.normalpark.org)...and more!

See page three for information on 2012 dues at work!

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? Want to write an article for this newsletter? Drop the board a line by contacting Dawn Keech at president@normalpark.org and let us know that you're interested!

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April Showers Bring May Flowers

Maybe you've noticed the beautiful tulips that come up in some of the endcap gardens in the N. Wallace and Westmoorland medians in the spring. Maybe you have visions of something even more beautiful in one of those spaces? We need volunteers to help maintain these gardens! It only takes 2-3 hours in total over the spring and summer months to help make these spaces a place of beauty. Ypsi PRIDE and NPNA donate the materials (flowers, mulch, etc.) — you just supply yourself! We especially need volunteers along N. Wallace at Grant and N. Congress. Please contact Jessica Faul if you are interested (phone: 483-4690, email: jfaul@umich.edu).

Tigers Game

Mark your calendars: the NPNA is organizing another group trip to the Detroit Tigers! The date is Sunday, September 15 at 1:00 pm. The price per person will include bus transportation and a ticket.



Registration will open in the summer, and flyers will be distributed around the neighborhood before then. In order to secure a spot, payment will need to accompany the registration form. Spaces will be allocated in order of receipt.

Watch your email and mailbox for more details! If you're not on the NPNA email list yet, contact the NPNA board at president@normalpark.org to join.

NPNA Upcoming Events

Ypsilanti PRIDE

Saturday, May 18 starting at 9:00 am

Ypsilanti P.R.I.D.E. Day is a community-wide event intended to foster community pride and encourage local business growth by making Ypsi a clean and welcoming environment. Each year, over 1000 volunteers spend the morning picking up litter, painting, planting flowers and otherwise beautifying the town we love. After the clean-up, volunteers are treated to lunch and entertainment at the Post-Event Celebration.

This year, the event will be held on Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 am to noon. You can view the clean-up locations, register as a site captain or volunteer on:

<http://www.a2ychamber.org/Events/Ypsilanti-Pride.aspx>.

We have several PRIDE sites around our neighborhood so please volunteer to help Normal Park stay beautiful!

NPNA Upcoming Events (continued)

NPNA Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, June 1 starting at 9:00 am



The NPNA Yard Sale draws people from near and far and is a great way to get rid of clutter, meet some neighbors, and make money. This event is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the

NPNA, helping pay for neighborhood projects. If you're planning on participating, help support your neighborhood association by registering early!

The NPNA provides newspaper ads, posts signs at the boundaries of our neighborhood, and distributes the neighborhood maps. Use this opportunity to get rid of a lot of cool stuff you no longer need. There are always hundreds of eager customers.

A \$10 registration fee will get your home included on a neighborhood map with descriptions of your items for sale. For a \$30 registration fee, you can place an ad along the boundary of the map. (Ads do not necessarily have to be regarding the yard sale.)

You keep all the money you make. Your registration fee pays for the advertising and the rest goes into the NPNA fund to help pay for neighborhood projects.

A registration form is on page 5 of this newsletter. Send your registration form in by **Friday, May 24** by mailing or dropping it off to NPNA Yard Sale, c/o Megan Brown at 1210 Grant Street. Checks should be made payable to NPNA.

NPNA Annual Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, August 7 starting at 6:00 pm



Join your neighbors for the annual NPNA Ice Cream Social in the Rose Garden behind the Senior Center in Recreation Park. Every August our neighborhood gathers together for this special event to enjoy each other's company...and ice cream! If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Claudia Pettit on 734-480-2714.

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

Report from our Local Schools

By Emma Jackson, WISD

Exciting events are unfolding in your neighborhood schools. The Board of Education voted to call the unified district *Ypsilanti Community Schools* and adopted the vision "to be the first choice for an exceptional cradle to career education." To this end, seven advisory groups are working diligently to sculpt an educational system that will be a model for progressive and creative instructional methods. Many options are under consideration, including small learning communities, college credit/career credentials for all high school graduates, an early childhood family center, and co-curricular programs that are designed to support the academic environment. High quality teachers and effective teaching, strong leadership at all levels and implementing practices that support a culture and climate conducive to a positive learning atmosphere are also key to the development of a high student achievement school system. This is an unprecedented time in our local school's history. Learn more about the opportunities and progress of Ypsilanti Community Schools at www.together4ss.org.

For more information, contact:

Emma Jackson, Communication Specialist
Washtenaw Intermediate School District
www.wash.k12.mi.us

Follow WASHisd on Twitter and Facebook
734-994-8100, ext. 1321

Neighborhood Dine-Out!

On March 9, the Bona Sera Café was the location for the first Normal Park Neighborhood Dinner! The NPNA will be planning future dinners at restaurants around Ypsi. Watch your email for upcoming dates and join us for great food and lively conversation!



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News from the YDL

The YDL Bookmobile has changed stops and times! The two former stops (Owendale & Cross, Edith Hefley Park) have been consolidated into a new stop at Sherman & Wallace. The Bookmobile is at Sherman & Wallace every Thursday from 5:40 - 6:20 pm. Contact Mary Garboden at 734-482-4110, ext. 1316 with any questions. See you on the Bookmobile!



Your NPNA Dues at Work!

The NPNA requests an annual contribution per household of \$10 for activities. In 2012, these dues and other contributions to the NPNA supported the following:

- Dues for COPAC
- Gift certificate prizes and food for the Chili Cookoff
- Sponsorship of the Heritage Foundation Home Tour
- Advertising for the Yard Sale
- Printing of the maps for the Yard Sale
- Printing of the Spring & Fall newsletters
- One chair rack (\$500) for the Senior Center
- Ice cream and supplies at the Ice Cream Social, and donation to the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra for performing
- Supplies for new neighbor bags
- Drinks and supplies for the Halloween Party
- Food for the New Neighbor brunch

Thank you for your support! If you wish to contribute, you can use the Yard Sale registration form included in this newsletter to submit your dues.

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Rutherford Pool Almost Ready for Construction!

After a two-year fundraising effort that has raised nearly \$1 million from more than 200 donors, the new pool in Recreation Park is nearing the construction phase. Neighborhood supporters hope the final \$51,000 needed can be raised by April 30 to allow construction to go forward and the new pool to be available during the 2013 summer swimming season.

Friends of Rutherford Pool Board Chair, John Weiss, explained that the additional amount of money is all that is needed. "Everything else has been put in place. Construction firm bids have been received, a good, solid contracting firm has been selected, and the final permitting with the city is just weeks away. All we need is this final fundraising push. If we can raise that money, we can build the pool. It's as simple as that."

Despite the Friends' success in raising more than \$950,000, an amount significantly greater than what was originally estimated as a solid goal to begin the rebuild, a number of items have developed that require the group to raise the additional \$51,000. Brian Tell, Friends of Rutherford Pool Board Member, noted that "the pool construction estimates we received 18 months ago have gone up over 15%. Part of this increase is due to a general improvement in the economy resulting in capital projects, like a pool, costing more than it did in 2011."

The other causes for the rise include the State's requirement of complying with prevailing wage laws and having a contingency fund – a requirement by the City of Ypsilanti before the rebuild can take place. The city also requires that all funds be available, so pledges, while helpful, must be fully met to allow the money to be considered for the construction phase.

"The last thing we want to have to tell the community is that they have to go another year without a pool," said Friends of Rutherford Pool Board Member Lisa Wozniak. "After getting more than 95 percent of the way there, we hope our neighbors will all step forward and help us cross the finish line."

The Friends of Rutherford Pool (FORP) is comprised of Ypsilanti area residents and other supporters of the Rutherford Pool. FORP is raising funds for the construction of a new outdoor swimming pool to replace the 40 year old pool in Recreation Park. Contributions, which are fully tax deductible, may be made by contacting Friends member John Weiss at weissjk@umich.edu, visiting the website (www.forpool.org) or directly to the Rutherford Pool Fund at the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund, housed at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, 301 N. Main Street, Suite 300 Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1133.

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.

Marie Toft

I live on Sherman Street and am from Grand Rapids initially, but have been living in Howell since 2001. I work at a reference publishing company called Cengage Learning (Gale) as an editor and project manager. Howell never felt like a good fit, so I decided to start looking for a new home in Ypsilanti or Ann Arbor. One of my primary reasons for wanting to move down here was because there are a lot of opportunities for dancing.

I discovered Normal Park after coming to check out a couple houses for sale in the neighborhood. I really had no idea what kind of neighborhood this was, just that the houses were charming. I had scheduled a viewing of another house on Sherman, and the one I bought just happened to be having an open house on that day. I had looked at about 30 houses by then and knew immediately that this was the right one. It's filled with light and color and has good energy and a lovely kitchen; I love it so much. And as a bonus, all the wonderful things about the community and the neighborhood came to light after we made the offer. For example, the neighborhood garage sale, the community garden, and the ability to have milk delivered. (How charming and old-fashioned is that?!)

Also, it turns out this house is in really good shape and the yard is filled with lovely flowers. The previous owners had put in raised beds and there are strawberries, raspberries, lilacs, tulips, crocuses, clematis, sage, lavender, dill, oregano, and a multiplicity of other wonders. They were so great about introducing me to my fantastic neighbors and handing the house over in the most gracious way possible. I love that the neighborhood is filled with readers and writers, musicians and artists, and artisans -- and dog lovers. :)

(Really the only downside to this move are the skunks!! No one told me about the Ypsi terrier until it was well too late!)

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Adrienne and Shaun Clarke

We live on Grant Street and purchased our home in August 2010. Shaun is on research faculty at the University of Michigan in the College of Engineering, and Adrienne is a limited licensed psychologist, currently on sabbatical from private practice as we await the birth of our first adopted child, who is due at the end of April. Shaun enjoys cooking, playing video games, painting, playing Warhammer, and golf. Adrienne enjoys brewing beer, sewing, crocheting and playing the piano.



We began our home-search looking for several qualities we weren't sure we could find all in one place. We wanted an established community, with sidewalks, mature trees, multi-generation residents, nearby parks and schools, and neighborhood activities. Adrienne loves older homes, and Shaun loves modern kitchens so these criteria made our search for a home very specific, but they were met in our 1927 house that had a gourmet kitchen (added on in 2008) in Normal Park! As soon as we walked in the door, we knew this was home. We love how our neighbors are always out running, walking, and playing. We love the community activities at the senior center and the annual yard sale! We have enjoyed getting to know our neighbors and are glad we chose to live in Normal Park.

We have enjoyed shopping at the Ypsi Food Co-op, Ypsi Farmer's Market and other local stores. Adrienne gets bi-monthly massages at Depot Town's Massage Mechanics and we both enjoy eating at Sidetrack for free burger Monday! We feel very welcomed by our neighbors and NPNA association.



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NPNA Neighborhood Yard Sale Registration Form

Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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Send this registration form in by **Friday, May 24** by mailing or dropping it off to
NPNA Yard Sale, c/o Megan Brown at 1210 Grant Street. Checks should be made payable to **NPNA**.

Please complete the following so we can contact you. Only your address and item descriptions are published.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please list items you would like to have printed on the map (e.g., furniture, books, antiques, toys, miscellaneous household items):

- YES, please list me on the neighborhood map! (\$10)**
- YES, please include my enclosed business card-sized ad! (\$30)**
- YES, I am enclosing an additional \$10 for NPNA dues for my household! (\$10)**

Real Estate Update

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood (as of March 3, 2013):

1113 Grant	\$139,900
122 Linden Court	\$150,000
183 North Mansfield	\$129,000
201 Oakwood	\$164,900
208 Oakwood	\$70,000
229 Oakwood	\$64,000
1112 Pearl	\$120,000
922 Sheridan	\$139,800
966 Sheridan	\$109,900
1214 Sherman	\$125,000

The following homes were recently sold (November 1, 2012-March 3, 2013):

913 North Congress	\$135,000
924 North Congress	\$135,000
1113 Grant	\$61,500
615 North Mansfield	\$80,000
507 Oakwood	\$71,454
1207 Pearl	\$221,000
1304 Pearl	\$139,000
1225 Sherman	\$129,000

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.

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 or contact us on the phone number to the right!

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.

- **Craft Circus (formerly Art in the Park)** May 11
Community/Senior Center, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **The Color Run** May 11
A colorful 5K through downtown
- **Ypsi PRIDE Day** May 18
Throughout the city, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Memorial Day Parade** May 27
Starts at 9:00 am
- **Normal Park Neighborhood Yard Sale** June 1
Normal Park, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **Michigan Elvisfest** July 12-13
Riverside Park
- **NPNA Ice Cream Social** Aug 7
Senior Center, Recreation Park, 6:00 pm
- **Heritage Festival** Aug 16-18
Riverside Park, Depot Town, Frog Island and Downtown

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

2013 Board Members

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Community Garden:	Lisa Bashert
At-large members:	Rebecca Dunkle

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.