

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 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 Sunday, October 30 at 3:00 pm

Calling all young and young at heart! This year's NPNA Children's Halloween Parade will be SUNDAY, October 30 at



3:00pm. (This year's parade is on a Sunday because the YCS Band will be at EMU's game on the Saturday.) The parade will step off from the former middle school on Mansfield and will wind through the neighborhood to the Ypsilanti Senior Center where we will finish 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 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.

We are looking for a few people to help us! If you would like to volunteer to help make this event awesome, we need the following:

--Many volunteers to set up the Senior Center from 2:00 pm to 2:40 pm. Because another group regularly uses the Center until 2:00 pm on Sundays, we cannot access it until then, so that means all hands are appreciated to get the chairs and tables organized, the food laid out, and any decorations up.

--One kind soul to be at the Senior Center from 2:40 until the arrival of the parade group.

--Snacks! Bite-sized baked goods, fruit and veggies are really welcome. (We'll leave the candy for Trick-or-Treating.) The NPNA will provide cider. You can either drop off the goodies at 2:00 pm, or you can bring them with you after the parade.

--And of course, volunteers who wish to sweep and clean up afterwards are cherished!

Please email newsletter@normalpark.org if you can help.

We look forward to seeing you on the 30th! Come outside, cheer them on, and enjoy the band. Thanks for your support!

News from the Ypsi District Library

Halloween Downtown & YpsiGLOW Thursday, October 27

Halloween Downtown: 5:00 - 6:30pm
Library Plaza, 229 W. Michigan Ave

YpsiGLOW: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

North Washington Street between Michigan and Pearl

Kick off your Halloween weekend in downtown Ypsi! Kids can start at Library Plaza for popcorn, candy, a costume contest, and a visit to the Boo!Mobile. Then wander over to North Washington Street for YpsiGLOW, an all-ages glow-out block party built by Ypsi artists, organizations, businesses, and community members. Join in an illuminating celebration with live music, street performances, and interactive art!

To get ready for YpsiGLOW, there will be free GLOWworkshops throughout the month of October! Visit <https://www.facebook.com/ypsiglow/events> for a complete list. You are also welcome (and encouraged) to bring a costume from home.

Download Music, Movies, Magazines, and more with your Library Card

Who needs Netflix? The Ypsilanti District Library has added new digital services to their collection! Now you can find great content 24/7 on any device. No wait lists, no late fees—it's instant and it's free with your library card.

- **Hoopla:** Access movies, music, audiobooks, TV shows, and comic books instantly, including many new releases! Stream content online on any device, or download it using the Hoopla app for iPhone, Android, or Kindle Fire. Log in with your Ypsi Library card at www.hoopladigital.com.
- **Zinio:** It's a newsstand at your fingertips! Browse popular magazines like National Geographic, Business Week, Cosmopolitan, Bon Appetit, and many more. Get them on any device and keep them as long as you like. Browse online or get the Zinio app. Get started at www.ypsilibrary.org/zinio

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

News from the Senior Center

Vintage Jewelry Sale

Saturday, December 3 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Support the senior center by buying the vintage jewelry that was donated. Very affordable prices and great finds.

55th Anniversary!

Sunday, December 4 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Save the date! The Senior Center is celebrating its 55th year of providing amazing services to the residents of Ypsilanti. Celebration planning is happening throughout October, so visit www.ypseniorcenter.org in the coming months for more information on this special event.

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!



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Holiday Home Tour Comes to Normal Park

Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels 20th Annual Holiday Home Tour takes place on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Thanks to generous sponsors and tour goers, this event has become YMOW's largest fundraiser as well as the official celebratory welcome to the holiday season in the community. The support from the home tour will be used to assist us in resuming Saturday meal delivery.

In past years, the attendance at the daytime tour has dwindled while the popularity of the strolling dinner candlelight tour has grown annually. Because of this trend, the tour now has evolved to a single day event - \$50 per person - and will continue to transport ticket holders into the holiday mood while offering stronger support to Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels.

Candlelight Tour & Strolling Dinner

The Saturday Candlelight Tour has become a much-anticipated evening for YMOW supporters, launching the season of holiday celebration in a special way for this community. In addition to seeing the homes with their sparkling lights and charming décor warming the winter night, the evening experience offers the delicious strolling dinner where participants tour the decorated homes while enjoying food and beverages from local restaurants. The finale - delectable dessert at the Hutchinson Mansion on North River Street - welcomes ticket holders with wine and live music courtesy of our Headliner Sponsors: Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club, Zingerman's Community of Businesses, Cueter Chrysler, and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor.

Homes for 2016

At this date, the tour includes these venues:

- Hutchinson Mansion: 600 North River St.
- Marla (Jim) Gousseff's home: 1202 Collegewood St.
- Andreas and Catie Bilz's home: 108 Oakwood St.
- Fisher Home: 402 East Cross Ave.
- Kathi Talley home: 56 East Forest Ave.
- YpsiPlant by Growing Hope: 16 South Washington St.

This year, the tour features the crown jewel of Ypsilanti's historic architecture: the Hutchinson Mansion, elevated above the neighboring homes between East Forest and North River Street. In 1902 when Shelley Byron Hutchinson built it with his trading stamp fortune, popular

sentiment considered it the most extravagant home west of the Alleghenies. Today, the mansion houses the High Scope Educational Research Foundation, an independent nonprofit research, development, training, and public outreach organization.

Sponsors of the Holiday Home Tour help YMOW remain a No-Wait service provider for all home-bound clients this year and into 2017. There is still time for businesses and individuals to pledge this much needed support as a Sponsor or Angel donor. Contact the YMOW office on 734-487-9669 or info@ymow.org by November 18 to pledge your sponsorship and be included in the ticket brochure.

Tickets and Tour Details

The Saturday evening tour is from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm on December 3, 2016 and the \$50 per person ticket price includes all the venues, the strolling dinner, plus the dessert and wine afterglow party. Purchase tickets at:

- The YMOW office: 1110 W. Cross Street, Ypsilanti 48197, 734-487-9669
- Haab's Restaurant: 18 W. Michigan Avenue, downtown Ypsilanti
- Nelson Amos Studios: 23 E. Cross Street, Depot Town
- The Eyrie: 50 E. Cross Street, Depot Town
- Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels website: www.ymow.org



826Michigan

Free After-School Tutoring and Creative Writing Workshops in Downtown Ypsilanti!

826michigan is a non-profit writing and tutoring center serving students ages 6-18 in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and Detroit. We offer after-school tutoring, creative writing workshops, drop-in writing, in-school programs, and field trips, all cost-free for students, families, and teachers. 826michigan is a magical place between home and school where students can get one-on-one support from trained adult volunteers in their community.



Our **After-School Tutoring** program in Ypsilanti is hosted in beezy's café on Washington Street, transforming a daytime café into a cozy evening tutoring lab where homework completion, healthy snacks, and positive attitudes are the norm. Students can show up any time between 6-8pm, Monday-Thursday, and receive homework help in all subject areas, assistance with projects or essays, support in college essay writing, and any other academic support needed. Our **Drop-in Writing** program at the Michigan Avenue and Whittaker Road branches of the Ypsilanti District Library provides students with the opportunity to experiment with different types of creative writing. No pre-registration is required for either program: parents/guardians fill out registration forms on a student's first day.

826michigan is part of 826 National, a network of writing and tutoring centers co-founded by author Dave Eggers. These aren't your standard writing and tutoring centers, though: each center is hidden behind a whimsical storefront disguise. If you have spent time walking around downtown Ann Arbor, you might have passed by the Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair, a front for 826michigan. Our storefront removes any stigma that might be attached to getting extra academic help, provides a creative atmosphere for our youth-centered programs, and draws in visitors from the community. The storefront does actually sell novelty robot products, and all of the proceeds contribute to our cost-free programs.

Washington Street Tutoring (ages 8-18)

20 North Washington Street, Ypsilanti, MI (inside beezy's)
Monday-Thursday, 6-8pm; Mon., Oct 3 - Thurs., Dec 1

Drop-in Writing @ YDL Michigan Ave (ages 8-18)

229 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI
Mondays: 4-5pm, Oct 3-Nov 28
Tuesdays: 4-5pm, Oct 4-Nov 29

Drop-in Writing @ YDL Whittaker Rd (ages 8-18)

5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, MI
Wednesdays: 4-5pm, Oct 5-Nov 30

For information about volunteer opportunities and a wide variety of Saturday writing workshops, please visit us online at 826michigan.org or call (734) 761-3463.

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!

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.

734-368-6945
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1673 S. Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Know Your Neighbors

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

Dawn Keech



Why did we move here? We chose to live in Normal Park because I had a coworker that lived on Cross, and when she and I had a meeting together at EMU, our route from the office to the meeting took us through the neighborhood. At the time I was living just outside of Detroit and commuting into Ann Arbor every day. I didn't know much about Washtenaw County, but I figured at some point, I'd like to move closer to my job. I remember that first drive from State Street down Packard to EMU, crossing Mansfield and immediately recognizing the neighborhood as a place I would like to live. My husband Jason would come to the same conclusion on his own. So when it was time to buy a house, we almost exclusively focused our search within Normal Park. We did see a few houses elsewhere, but Normal Park was just the best fit for us.

I used to joke that I had moved to real-life Pleasantville. I didn't know neighborhoods like this existed; and while I have no evidence that this is something unique to *just* Normal Park, it's unique among the places I've lived. I love that my kids just go out and find other kids to play with when they get bored, I love our big old trees, I love the access to the community gardens (there are two IN our neighborhood and another one just across Summit!!), I love the pool and the parks...but mostly I love the people, who are thoughtful, generous, kind, and who are willing to pitch in and help out when asked. One of my favorite neighborhood stories happened about a year ago. An indoor cat had escaped from home and got stuck WAY up in a tree, and neighbors banded together, chipped in money, and hired a tree cutting company to rescue the cat. When the cat's owner, who was laid up with a broken leg (or something similar) was found – the same neighbors wouldn't accept repayment for the cost to retrieve the cat. If that doesn't make you feel good about living here, I don't know what would!

A few years back, I became president of the Normal Park Neighborhood Association. It's a job that I find challenging at times, especially trying to balance it among my kids' activities and my job. But it's an amazing experience. I don't know that I ever expected to live in a community where my neighbors are among my closest friends, and that is what happened over our 11 years here. During my tenure as president, I've had the opportunity to work with the most amazing and committed board members and meet so many neighbors that I may not have met otherwise.

I am also a fan of the awesome events the neighborhood sponsors! We have our wildly popular Halloween Parade and our Holiday Night of Lights event coming up before the end of the year. I know sometimes it's a little intimidating to get out when you don't know people, but I implore those new to the neighborhood and those who have been here for a while to check out the activities. They are lots of fun, and a great way to meet new people and form the relationships that make this neighborhood so special.

Shane Davis



Coming up with that one special story that captures the essence of who you are is difficult task, especially when you have been extremely lucky, as I have. I sat looking at a blinking cursor for far too long waiting for the cream to rise to the top. What happened instead is I sat in revelry smiling to myself...amazed.

What can I tell you about an Ozark hillbilly who migrated to the city when his stepdad got a job at Kmart selling televisions? Maybe that I talked a local bar owner into hiring me as a janitor at age 7 or that my 2nd grade teacher swore to the class she would commit suicide if I was in her 3rd grade class the following year (I was, she didn't).

Perhaps I should talk about how poor and nomadic we were, moving all over the South until I left my nuclear family behind at age 14. Hmmm.

Maybe we should jump ahead to when I was living in Seattle, living the Kurt Cobain life and looking like my hero, and on a whim joined the Air Force thinking they would never take a freak like me. They did...for 10 years. Tours in the desert, traveling all around the world, meeting so many people, surviving dangers and making trouble.

I just don't know where to begin. I have worked in almost every field from education, technology, fine arts to road construction. No, that's not really who I am.

Let's start with the year long search for a home, for Amber. She dragged me along whenever she could and I helped most of the time but really it was her show. She would get all excited about a home and then, as you all know, hit a challenge that knocked the home out of reach. Finally, our future home on Mansfield, came on the market and she knew it was the one. After looking at homes all over Ypsilanti, literally every part, she knew this was it. We walked through the neighborhood and fell in love with every street we turned down. It was the definition of picturesque Americana.

Every day since we moved in to Normal Park has been one of thanks and gratitude. We talk about all of you every day. We rejoice in the wonder of being neighbors to so many wonderful people. It is the culmination of a dream to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

In the end, I can't decide on one story to share with you. I want to sit down with every one of you and share stories. I want to show some scars, laugh at the ridiculous, cluck tongues at near misses, and sit in silent rapture at the unbelievable.

Real Estate Update

The following homes are **actively being marketed** in our neighborhood (as of October 10, 2016):

1212 N. Congress	\$174,900
1210 Elbridge	\$175,000
1219 Grant	\$174,900
480 N. Mansfield	\$148,000
213 Oakwood	\$199,900
957 Sherman	\$209,900

The following homes were **recently sold** (since March 1, 2016):

1016 N. Congress	\$240,000
1310 N. Congress	\$148,000
1005 W. Cross	\$185,000
1104 W. Cross	\$164,000
1313 W. Cross	\$252,500
1503 W. Cross	\$124,000
1310 W. Cross	\$176,530
913 Grant	\$186,500
1302 Grant	\$125,000
8 N. Mansfield	\$165,900
325 N. Mansfield	\$115,500
359 N. Mansfield	\$213,000
360 N. Mansfield	\$135,000
485 N. Mansfield	\$199,900
203 Oakwood	\$193,000
475 Owendale	\$184,000
920 Pearl	\$172,000
1001 Pearl	\$185,000
1115 Pearl	\$197,791
1120 Pearl	\$200,000
1208 Pearl	\$230,000
1212 Pearl	\$185,000
1305 Pearl	\$185,000
949 Sheridan	\$86,000
1223 Sherman	\$171,950
208 N. Wallace	\$149,900
1235 Washtenaw	\$159,900
1033 Washtenaw	\$170,000
1245 Washtenaw	\$172,900

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

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.

Mark your Calendar



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

- **Halloween Downtown & YpsiGLOW** **Oct. 27**
Washington Street, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** **Oct. 30**
Former Middle School, Step off at 3:00 pm
- **NPNA Night of Lights** **Dec. 10**
All around Normal Park, starting at 6:00 pm!
- **Vintage Jewelry Sale** **Dec. 3**
Senior Center, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- **YMOW 20th Annual Holiday Home Tour** **Dec. 3**
Various locations, 3:00 - 11:00 pm
- **DIYpsi Holiday Market** **Dec. 10-11**
Riverside Arts Center

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

Current Board Members

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