



## 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 support neighborhood projects, events, meetings and more!

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## NPNA Upcoming Events

### Sampling of Ypsi Eats!:

### Neighborhood Gathering

**Thursday, May 17 from 6:00 at Cultivate**

The NPNA is excited to host the next gathering for Normal Park neighbors. Join your neighbors to explore cuisines from some of our newer local establishments, including Veg-O-Rama, Ma Lou's, La Torre, and Panadería La Bendición, southeast Michigan's only Guatemalan bakery. Registration is required in advance to ensure accurate catering. The [online registration link](#) is now posted to the Facebook page. Registration is required by May 14. Not on the email list? Email [president@normalpark.org](mailto:president@normalpark.org) to be added. Not on the Facebook page? Search for Normal Park Neighborhood Association and request to be added!

### Ypsilanti Proud

**Saturday, May 19 starting at 9:00 am**

Mark your calendar for the 23rd Annual Ypsilanti P.R.I.D.E. Day, now called Ypsilanti Proud, on May 19, 2018. Ypsilanti Proud is a community-wide event intended to foster community pride and encourage local business growth by creating a clean and welcoming environment. It began as a class project by the 1995 graduating class of Leadership Ypsilanti, an experiential learning program sponsored by the Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber, and is now sponsored by the A2Y Chamber Foundation.

500-1200 volunteers spend the morning picking up litter, painting, planting flowers and otherwise beautifying the Ypsilanti community. After the clean-up, volunteers are treated to lunch at the Post-Event Picnic.

Volunteers are invited to register on [www.a2ychamber.org/foundation/ypsilantiproud](http://www.a2ychamber.org/foundation/ypsilantiproud). If you don't get the chance to register in advance, please still feel free to go to one of the sites on the day -- volunteers are always needed and your help is appreciated to make our city shine!

## NPNA Upcoming Events

### NPNA Annual Yard Sale

**Saturday, June 2 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.

To reduce mistakes in transcription and to be more environmentally friendly, the NPNA is moving to an [online registration system](#). This system will allow you to type in your information directly and then pay by credit card. You can find the registration form on [www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org). If you don't have access to the internet, we will still accept a paper registration. You can find a paper form to complete on page 6.

Submit the registration form no later than Friday, May 25. Submissions received after this date unfortunately cannot be included on the paper map.

### Ice Cream Social

**Wednesday, August 8 from 6:00 - 7:30 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! This event also serves as the organization's Annual Meeting with election of officers. If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact [president@normalpark.org](mailto:president@normalpark.org).



### 7th Annual Kids TRI-umph For Our Pool

**Saturday, August 11 from 8:30 am**

Thanks to ALL the participants, spectators, local businesses and volunteers who came out last August in support of Rutherford Pool and the Kids' Triathlon – we had incredible weather again last year!

We were just shy of breaking our all-time high number of participants. In 2015, we had 65 registered and in 2017 we had 64. But, with the additional financial support from many local businesses, we were able to raise approximately \$1700 which is a record! Thanks to donations of money and time, ALL proceeds made on this event go directly to the pool each year.

If you have ideas on how we can make this event bigger and better, if you are interested in joining the planning committee this year, or volunteering in any fashion please write to Amyleigh at [houseofbikes@comcast.net](mailto:houseofbikes@comcast.net).

We are always looking for way to improve and expand the event. We usually start pulling the event together in early May.

Please mark your calendars for our 2018 event: Saturday, August 11 (our 7th annual)!



<b>Beth Bashert</b> Sales & Leasing Consultant	(734) 997-7600 (734) 997-9213 Fax
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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 Ypsi District Library

*Editor's note: Unfortunately the newsletter went to print too late for the following events, but be sure to check out [www.ypsilibrary.org](http://www.ypsilibrary.org) for the latest (and don't forget to thank a librarian!)*

The Ypsilanti District Library will be launching a new website in April. Stay tuned to [www.ypsilibrary.org](http://www.ypsilibrary.org) for an updated site where you can discover everything that's happening at your library!

National Library Week is April 8-15, and YDL will be hosting events all over the community:

- Drummunity & Bookmobile Day  
Saturday, April 14, 1-4pm  
YDL-Whittaker, 5577 Whittaker Road  
Celebrate libraries on wheels with a tour of the Bookmobile and Book Trike, plus a special ribbon-cutting for the new Ford Flex that will be used for book deliveries thanks to Gene Butman Ford and Bank of Ann Arbor. At 2pm, the whole family is invited to a hands-on drumming workshop with Drummunity!
- Dining for Dollars at Haab's  
Sunday, April 15, 11am-8:30pm  
Support your library at one of Ypsi's favorite restaurants! 10% of the cost of your meal today will be donated to YDL.

And a special note: A number of our neighbors are YDL staff, so let's let them know what a treasure they and the library is for the residents of Ypsi!

- Visit the Bookmobile on Sherman & Wallace on Thursdays from 7:20 - 7:55 pm and thank them there!
- Make library staff a card or a treat!
- Donate your time or money to keep the library running smoothly!

**HEY NEIGHBOR!  
BUYING OR SELLING?**  
Contact me today!



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## News from the Pool

### Rutherford Pool Bath House Fundraiser Kicks Off!

With a newly constructed pool serving as a proud community gem, attention is now turning to the second phase of the Rutherford Pool renovation project - to rebuild the aging bathhouse. Nearly 50 years old, the bathhouse is worn, in disrepair and poses several safety issues. Through the tireless effort of pool staff and community volunteers, the bathhouse has been "patched" together year after year. But, it is critical that we address the problematic issues soon, while providing a facelift that matches the re-built pool's stature.

This year the Rutherford Pool will kick-off a campaign to raise \$600K in funds to build a new bath house. Keep an eye on the Rutherford Pool Facebook page or the pool website for the campaign kick-off <https://www.forpool.org/>

In addition to upgraded plumbing and lighting and new locker room facilities, the new design features an improved entry and concession area and the addition of two family/gender neutral changing areas.

In the summer, Rutherford Pool is open daily, starting with morning lap swim at 6:30 a.m. followed by swim team practice, swim lessons, tot splash, open swim, adult lap swim and family swim ending at 8:00 p.m. Pool passes will go on sale on April 29th. See <https://www.forpool.org/> for more information.

[NEW THIS YEAR – a Babies and Me class for kids ages 0-2 years. Parents must participate. Sundays in July 10:15-10:45am. Cost \$10 per class or \$30 for all four classes.]

If you want to get involved in the fundraising efforts please contact Jessica at [jfaul@umich.edu](mailto:jfaul@umich.edu). We'd love to have your help and enthusiasm.



**Rutherford Pool Bath House Redesign Conceptual Drawing**

## News from your Neighbor

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

Submitted by Ayron Smith-Douglas and Lisa Bashert

Women with Wings West: A Little Jewel Housed in Normal Park

As the words of one of our songs goes "...in these times, in these uncertain times, we will remain open to the miracle that is each moment."

Founded by the late composer, conductor, and musician Kay Gardner to support and heal women, Women with Wings seminar group continues, twenty plus years later, in Bangor, Maine. However, one can find a special branch of it right here in Normal Park. The purpose and activities of Women with Wings can be best summed up through Kay Gardner's statement of intention, which to us feels even more relevant and powerful for women and all we touch than it did two decades ago when Kay first said it:

"Women with Wings seeks the spiritual empowerment of women. It is our goal to create safe, sacred space for exploring women's spirituality through music. Through song we intend to enhance consciousness of Mother Earth, express love for the environment, and celebrate traditions from many cultures. As we find the power behind our voices, we then blend that power to create an even greater voice."

What follows are the vibrant expressions of my song sisters' experience with Women with Wings:

"It's the one place I can sing for fun without feeling like I need to be a professional singer just to participate."

"I come here because I grew up here (coming with my mom) and because I love it here. It's so safe, warm, and welcoming. I love to sing songs we've known for years and learn new songs. It's something I look forward to every month and hope you'll come join us!"

"I love Women with Wings short, memorizable, sacred songs that bless the seasons. It's a joyful experience gathering once a month, some of us for 18 years and some of us for less than one. Women with Wings is for women 8-108 and some girls have been singing with us since birth. It's an all-fun, no work, no auditions (or even ability to sing) drop-in group."

Come, come, come: The door is round and open the last Thursday of each month from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at 1107 Pearl Street. If you have questions or comments, contact Lisa Bashert on [wombbat@umich.edu](mailto:wombbat@umich.edu).

Submitted by Peri Stone-Palmquist

Please buy tickets now for Student Advocacy Center's annual fundraiser, a live storytelling event, featuring SAC students. This a powerful evening where new and experienced storytellers come together to inspire, challenge, and create community -- all while supporting SAC's work helping students stay in school.

Come at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 4 to mingle. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show is 7:30-9:30 p.m.) at Washtenaw Community College's Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor.

Tickets are \$25 (or more if you'd like to make a bigger gift to SAC). High school and college students: \$10. (At the door, tickets will be \$30 for general admission and \$10 for students.)

Buy tickets online at <http://tellingtales2018.bpt.me> or call (800) 838-3006.

SAC is headquartered in Ypsilanti with offices in Detroit and Jackson. Normal Park neighbor Peri Stone-Palmquist is Executive Director and the agency has a special focus on Ypsilanti. We are the only organization in the state providing education advocacy and support to both general and special education students.

## Are You New to the Neighborhood?

The NPNA provides welcome packets to those who have recently moved into our neighborhood! Twice a year, our New Neighbor Chair stops by with goodies (including the famous NPNA coffee mug!). If you have moved into Normal Park in the past year, contact us on [president@normalpark.org](mailto:president@normalpark.org) if you haven't been visited yet!



734-368-6945  
[amy@ajleo.com](mailto:amy@ajleo.com)

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## **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](mailto:newsletter@normalpark.org).*

### **Shannon Baer**

One of my earliest memories is standing in the backyard of my Victorian house in rural Rhode Island with my mother, her hair pulled back in two long braids. She has a rake in her hand, and we are in our garden. Tall stick-tips supporting scarlet runner beans surround us. My father is building an addition and the sound of hammering reverberates through the air. Rows of glass-jarred vegetables line our basement, a steadfast memory of the hours we spent preserving them together.

As a high school senior, I had completed a project about Deaf Culture, learned signed language, and studied the basics of speech pathology. My first declared area of study at Hampshire College was to understand how speech and language developed in the brain. I enrolled in an Oceanography class and mid-semester the professors invited me to join them on a trip to Death Valley and Panamint Valley to study ancient shorelines. I was hooked on fieldwork and that summer I went again for a month. The broad horizons, dry deserts, tall mountains, and purple, pink, and golden sunsets of the west beckoned me. And, after graduating and moving home (NY) for a year, I headed across the Smoky Mountains, over the Mississippi, and into the Rio Grande rift for graduate school.

My thesis research in the Manzano Mountains of the southern Rockies involved long days with a backpack, rock hammer, Brunton compass, field notebook, and topographic map. I used colored pencils to mark the contacts between rock types. In the lab, I cut field samples with a diamond blade saw and used thin sections and a microscope to evaluate the minerals and structures. In my spare time, I started the Socorro Peace and Justice Network and planned peace vigils and teach-ins. I worked with members of various political parties in an effort to find common ground. Along with a group of dedicated citizens, we passed a Resolution Reaffirming the Bill of Rights in Socorro, NM. I started teaching at the public school, and became a volunteer at a homeless shelter.

A few years later my son was born. I had moved back to New England and lived not far from that Victorian house that lives so strongly in my early memories. Money and the job market were tight, and I wanted to stay home with my growing child. I cleaned houses with my infant son tied to my back and then started a daycare. At first I had three children, two six-month olds and a year-and-a-half old. Others came and went, and I built the program up in the way that my parents had raised me: gardening, playing in the forest, cooking, raising chickens, and playing games. I read to the children, and gave them massages and long naps by the woodstove.

As my program blossomed, I began to write about the importance of play and nature, and teach other daycare providers and educators. I joined the Children and Nature Network. Upon completing a children's yoga training course, I began offering classes in nursery schools, daycares and after school programs- as Backyard Mama. I completed a teacher certification program and taught elementary and middle school in Rhode Island and New York.

So, how did I land in Normal Park, Ypsilanti, Michigan? Two years ago I was looking for opportunities and identifying energetic communities in which to raise my son. My family had lived on Sherman St when I was 8 and started my first business: hat making. Our neighbor bought multiple crochet hats from me... and they spread through the neighborhood. Ypsilanti made the shortlist and I applied for and accepted a job. After working with a number of different real estate agents, looking at over 30 houses, competing in multiple offer situations, backing out of two deals... and finally finding the perfect house to call home, we've settled here. I tell people that I paid for great neighbors and got my house for free.

Stop by for jazzminton, tea, and conversation... we are thrilled to be part of this neighborhood!

# NPNA Yard Sale

Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

To reduce mistakes in transcription and to be more environmentally friendly, the NPNA is moving to an [online registration system](#). This system will allow you to type in your information directly and then pay by credit card. You can find the registration form on [www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org). Registrations submitted online will receive a \$2 discount.

If you don't have access to the internet, we will still accept paper registrations. Cut out this registration form and submit it no later than Friday, May 25 to NPNA Yard Sale, c/o Megan Brown at 1210 Grant Street. Checks should be made payable to NPNA. Submissions received after this date unfortunately cannot be included on the paper map.

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, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

YES, please list me on the neighborhood map! (\$12 for paper registration)

YES, I am enclosing an additional \$10 for NPNA dues for my household! (\$10)



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## Flower Lovers Wanted!

We need a few volunteers to help tend the endcap flower beds in the medians along N. Wallace and Westmoorland. Ypsilanti Proud (see story on page 1) and NPNA generously donate the flowers – all we need from you is a little TLC. An hour or two is all it takes! Contact Jessica Faul ([jfaul@umich.edu](mailto:jfaul@umich.edu) or 734-483-4690) if you are interested in pitching in.

## Watch out!

Although non-NPNA residents seeing speed limit signs and stop signs as “optional” can be a challenge, we NPNA residents can be the example for how to drive in our little part of the world. Especially with the coming of spring, kids will be zipping on bikes around our fair neighborhood. Be safe and drive 25 (or less)!



## Friends of Ypsilanti Neighborhood Parks

A group of neighbors has gathered to help improve small neighborhood parks with beautification projects and fundraising for improvements to equipment. The parks include Edith Hefley Park, the Charles Street Tot Lot, and the Carrie Mattingly Park on Ainsworth. Possible improvements include picnic tables, gardening projects, new wood chips, and improvements to play equipment. The group will meet for a work day during Ypsilanti PROUD day on May 19 at Edith Hefley Park. We are looking for other neighbors with time and interest to help improve these neighborhood play areas. For more information, please contact Lisa Bashert ([wombbat@umich.edu](mailto:wombbat@umich.edu)), Kira Berman ([kiberman@umich.edu](mailto:kiberman@umich.edu)), or join the facebook group "Friends of Ypsilanti Neighborhood Parks."

## Ypsilanti Home Tour

Mark your calendars for June 24th to attend this year's YHF Historic Home Tour. Two Normal Park homes will be showcased as well as a midtown Victorian. This year's tour has something for everyone, also featuring a "work in progress" and 2 beautiful new affordable housing units. To cap things off you may want to stop by the Brick & Mortar Modern General Store in Depot Town to discover the rich history of the building and meet the local entrepreneurs with a vision.

If you are interested in volunteering for this community event we welcome you! Please contact MJ Dennison, [mjdogpwr@gmail.com](mailto:mjdogpwr@gmail.com), (734) 216-1275 or (734) 482-6140 to explore several volunteer opportunities.



### YpsiPLANTI Garden Supply by Growing Hope

Tuesdays and Fridays: 1-6pm

Saturdays: 10am-4pm

Sundays in May: 12-4pm

16 S. Washington St., Ypsilanti

734-707-7442

[ypsiantanti@growinghope.net](mailto:ypsiantanti@growinghope.net)

[facebook.com/ypsiantanti](https://facebook.com/ypsiantanti)

## 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 at [president@normalpark.org](mailto:president@normalpark.org) and let us know that you're interested in learning more!

## Real Estate Update

The following homes are currently listed for sale:

1502 W. Cross	\$189,900
1228 Elbridge	\$175,000
1117 Grant	\$274,900
1225 Sherman	\$189,900
11 N. Wallace	\$175,000
202 N. Wallace	\$189,900

The following homes were **recently sold** (Since November 1, 2017):

1312 N. Congress	\$180,000
960 W. Cross	\$143,500
1109 W. Cross	\$280,000
122 Linden Ct	\$235,000
216 Oakwood	\$164,900
1112 Sherman St	\$275,000
1 N. Wallace	\$232,000

**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](mailto:dennis@premierchoicerealty.biz), or 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 at [newsletter@normalpark.org](mailto:newsletter@normalpark.org).

## 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](http://www.normalpark.org).

- **Neighborhood Gathering at Cultivate** May 17
- **Ypsilanti Proud** May 19  
Throughout the city, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Memorial Day Parade** May 28  
Starts at 9:00 am
- **Normal Park Neighborhood Yard Sale** June 2  
Normal Park, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **Ypsilanti Heritage Fest Home Tour** June 24
- **Independence Day Parade** July 4
- **Michigan Elvisfest** July 6-7  
Riverside Park
- **NPNA Ice Cream Social & Annual Meeting** Aug 8  
Senior Center, Recreation Park, 6:00 pm
- **Kids TRI-umph For Our Pool** Aug 11  
Recreation Park, 8:30 am
- **Heritage Festival** Aug 24-26  
Riverside Park, Depot Town, Frog Island and Downtown
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** Oct 27  
Parade starts at 3:00 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](mailto:president@normalpark.org)  
On the web: [www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org)

### Current Board Members

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Greenscape: Jessica Faul  
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Graphics and Design: Jennifer Beyer  
Newsletter: Adrienne Meyer  
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At-large members: Rebecca Dunkle  
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