

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

Saturday, October 27 at 3:00 pm

Editorial note: The newsletter is going to print too late for this to be timely for the paper copy but I am keeping it in the issue for the electronic distribution. My apologies.

Calling all young and young at heart! This year's NPNA Children's Halloween Parade will be Saturday, October 28 at 3:00pm. The parade will step off from the new WIMA/WIHI school on Mansfield (read more about the school on page 2) and will wind through the neighborhood to the Ypsilanti Senior Center where we will finish with a party.



Everyone is invited to dress in costume and meet in front of the school at 2:50 pm. 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:

- We need multiple volunteers to set up the Senior Center at 12:00 pm to organize chairs and tables, gather food, and put up decorations.
- 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 12:00 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 or call 734-484-4677 if you can help.

We look forward to seeing you on the 27th! If the parade winds down your street, be sure to come outside to cheer on the kids! Thanks for your support!

Vegan Potluck!

Sunday, November 4 at 6:00 pm at the Senior Center

Join your neighbors on an adventure to explore vegan dishes! Bring a dish to pass. More information on <https://tinyurl.com/NPVeganPotluck>.

NPNA Upcoming Events continued

NPNA Night of Lights

Saturday, December 8 at 6:00pm

To remind us to stay connected during the colder months, the annual Night of Lights is an event for neighbors to decorate their walkways with luminaries and to stroll around the neighborhood. Cider stops provide fun places to meet & greet new friends!

The NPNA Night of Lights luminary order form is live on SignUpGenius on <https://tinyurl.com/NOL2018>. Can you host a cider stop? Email NightOfLights.npna@gmail.com.

Our Newest Neighbor Brings the World to Normal Park: Washtenaw International High School & Middle Academy

If you've been on Mansfield St. between Packard and Congress around 7:30 on a weekday morning or 2:30 on a weekday afternoon, you've probably noticed that there's a new school in our neighborhood! Over the summer, the building that once housed Ypsilanti West Middle School became home to an International Baccalaureate (IB) school for grades 6-12, namely Washtenaw International High School & Middle Academy. This public school is run by the Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium—comprising Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ypsilanti Community Schools, and 7 other local school districts—and provides approximately 400 high schoolers and 200 middle schoolers from Washtenaw County the opportunity to study a globally-oriented curriculum. This includes many students who live here in Normal Park!

Washtenaw International is one of only 87 schools in Michigan with IB-approved programs, including proficiency in a language other than English, standards-based grading, and community service-learning requirements. Local businesses and organizations who wish to partner with Washtenaw International for service-learning or internship activities can contact Mr. Ashley Fox (afox@wihi.org), a teacher who lives in the Normal Park Neighborhood. There are also opportunities to support the school through various fundraising events, such as PTO-sponsored "Dine to Donate" at Chipotle on Washtenaw Ave. near Arborland, from 4-8pm on Sat. 10/27. When diners tell the cashier they are supporting the WI-PTO event, a portion of the proceeds from their meal will benefit the school via its Parent Teacher Organization.

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.

What's happening at the U-M Museum of Natural History?

Shared by neighbor Kira Berman

Maybe you miss the museum because we're closed – we miss you too! We are busy moving 4 billion years of natural history from the old museum to our new home in the Biological Sciences Building – right next door to where we used to be.

Join us for our Grand Opening in April 2019, and discover additional exhibits opening in November 2019. In the spring, you will be able to explore the *Evolution: Life through Time* gallery, the *Science Forum* (a new presentation space where visitors can meet U-M scientists), the *Planetarium & Dome Theater*, and more! In November, come experience our *Exploring Michigan*, *Under the Microscope*, and *People and the Planet* galleries, and discover your inner scientist in two public *Investigate Labs*.

In order to bring you emerging discoveries in the natural sciences and anthropology, our museum is also evolving. In 2019, the new U-M Museum of Natural History (UMMNH) will open in the brand new Biological Sciences Building, allowing us to expand our footprint and invite visitors to be a part of University of Michigan science.

We are building a new museum space that will put the process of discovery on display, breaking down the boundaries between the public and research areas of our new building.

- Visitors will be able to observe **real working laboratories** where U-M scientists are conducting research. Research stations placed throughout the new museum will highlight the **latest U-M discoveries**.
- **New and favorite specimens and artifacts** from the Ruthven Museum will be reinterpreted with the most up-to-date science.
- More **interactive, hands-on, and minds-on exhibits** will offer opportunities to engage and inspire visitors of all ages and abilities.
- The new **Planetarium & Digital Dome Theater** will expand traditional planetarium capabilities into other realms of science such as biology, geology, and archaeology. Expanded program space includes a **Science Forum** (an informal space for scientist presentations, demonstrations, and films), two **hands-on public Investigate Labs**, and a multi-purpose **Community Room** for classes and programs.

Normal Park Music Fest Turning 5!

Shared by neighbor Colin Murphy

We're now 4 years deep into our very own Normal Park Neighborhood Music Festival!!!! In early 2015, inspired by Ann Arbor's Water Hill music festival, we had the idea to capture the musical awesome of many of our very own neighbors and put on our own neighborhood festival to shine on and enjoy our own talents. To test the waters, I set the idea out on the Normal Park facebook page, and was immediately lit up with an avalanche of support for the idea. We gathered a few neighborhood musicians and met to talk about various options for format, etc. In the end, we agreed that the best format was one where we opened it up to the participation and creativity of anyone in the neighborhood who wants to participate. If a neighbor wants to host music at their house for the event, go for it! We just ask that folks keep it open to all neighbors, keep it tasteful, and try to be as respectful to all neighbors as we can. It helps to send information on bands, performance times, locations, etc. centrally so we can organize information for all. Essentially like the yard sale, but more rockin'! Typically, we will have several houses participating between noon and 8pm on a Saturday in mid/late August, each hosting around 1 to 4 bands or solo artists. We try to pick a weekend which doesn't conflict with Ypsilanti Heritage Festival or Holler Fest to keep it available to as many folks and musicians as possible!

I must say, in hosting year 1, I was incredibly nervous and on edge. I had a backyard full of people, most of whom I didn't know, and was worried about all sorts of crazy things. Overall, it could not have been more awesome. So many people came out, everyone was incredibly good natured and easy going, and a great time was had by all. Now heading into year 5, this is something I truly look forward to every year and get very excited about sharing with our neighborhood. As a performing musician, aside from getting to share my music and getting to watch all our neighbors rock out, one of my favorite parts of this festival has been giving our kids a stage to get some performing experience on and start to develop that love of live music in the next generation. At my house early on, little Juniper Carpenter showed us her beautiful voice. My neighbor Miriam showed off her fiddling chops. Middlin family band "Fat Swan" rocked out, and my own family band "The Murphatonians" (wooo, ahhhh, yeah!!!!) has now been on for 3 years running.

The festival has been growing a little bit every year. I'm a family man with a day job and a band and have been doing what I can to make this event special for all, however available time is always a bid of a struggle. If anyone has some experience in developing events like this and would like to help to continue to make this festival grow, please reach out and let's make it happen! Thank you so much to all who have participated to make this special!!! Check em out live around town: Back Forty, Anna Lee's Co., Band of Rasmus, Ghost City Searchlight, Hullabaloo, Eric Moore, Fangs & Twang, Mercury Salad Sandwich, Missionary Zeal, Moon Swing, The Roundabouts, Frank Wright, Paledave & Jenny Fair, Adam Plomaritas, Grant & Tussing, Spencer Michaud, ...and many more!!!!!!

Thank you to everyone for being part of a neighborhood cool enough where something like this can happen. Have a great winter and keep an eye out for year 5 this coming August!



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

Real Estate Update

As of October 22, 2018, there are currently no active listings in Normal Park.

The following homes were recently sold (since May 1, 2018):

447 Anna	\$250,000
1004 N. Congress	\$43,500
1207 S. Congress	\$215,000
1305 N. Congress	\$220,000
1006 W. Cross	\$264,900
1502 W. Cross	\$205,000
1503 W. Cross	\$154,000
1210 Elbridge	\$245,000
1228 Elbridge	\$167,000
210 N. Elm	\$194,500
306 N. Elm	\$206,000
1117 Grant	\$243,000
1202 Grant	\$267,000
121 Linden Ct	\$191,000
466 Owendale	\$120,000
909 Sheridan	\$255,000
1225 Sherman St	\$193,000
8 N. Wallace	\$233,500
11 N. Wallace	\$185,000
100 N. Wallace	\$212,000
202 N. Wallace	\$216,000
303 N. Wallace	\$170,000

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, 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 on 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.

- **Halloween Downtown & YpsiGLOW** **Oct. 26**
Washington Street, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** **Oct. 27**
WIMA/WIHI, Step off at 3:00 pm
- **Vegan Potluck** **Nov. 4**
Senior Center, 6:00 pm
- **YMOW Holiday Home Tour** **Dec. 1**
Various locations, 3:00 - 11:00 pm
- **NPNA Night of Lights** **Dec. 8**
All around Normal Park, starting at 6:00 pm!
- **DIYpsi Holiday Market** **Dec. 8-9**
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

President: Dawn Keech
Vice President: Claudia Pettit
Secretary: Kerri Pepperman
Treasurer: Megan Brown
CoPAC: Catie Bilz
Greenscape: Jessica Faul
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At-large members: Kira Berman
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Stephanie Hart
Alex Pettit
Jason Ringholz