

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, and you can find a donation link on www.normalpark.org. 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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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 and let us know that you're interested in learning more!

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)!



Upcoming Events

Community Cleanup Day Saturday, May 18 starting at 9:00 am

Community Cleanup Day, formerly Ypsilanti PRIDE Day, 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.

Up to 1,200 volunteers spend the morning picking up litter, painting, planting flowers and otherwise beautifying the Ypsilanti community. This year, volunteers are needed for the following sites:

- Recreation Park
- Prospect Park
- Downtown Ypsilanti
- Depot Town
- Riverside/Frog Island
- Parkridge Park
- West Willow

If you would like to help on this community beautification day, please register to volunteer via <http://business.a2ychamber.org/events/details/community-cleanup-day-16296>.

NPNA Upcoming Events

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.

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. 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 4.

The \$10 online/\$12 paper 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.

Submit the registration form no later than Friday, May 24. Submissions received after this date unfortunately cannot be included on the paper map.

Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, August 7 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.



8th Annual Kids TRI-umph For Our Pool

Saturday, August 10 from 8:30 am

A big THANK YOU goes out to all the participants, spectators, local businesses and volunteers who came out last August to support the 7th Annual Kids Triathlon at Rutherford Pool. Last year we broke our records both in terms of the number of kids participating (90) and total dollars raised (\$2,500). Thanks to your donations of time and money, ALL proceeds made at this event go directly to support the operation of the pool each year. You can learn more about the triathlon and see a video made at the event at <https://www.forpool.org/kids-triathlon>.



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

Please mark your calendars to attend our 8th annual Kids Triathlon this summer on Saturday, August 10th.

Beth Bashert Sales & Leasing Consultant	(734) 997-7600 (734) 997-9213 Fax
 TOYOTA	
DUNNING TOYOTA - SCION 3745 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103 www.dunningtoyota.com www.dunningscion.com bbashert.dunningtoyota@gs.reyrey.com	

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

Commuter Biking from Normal Park to Ann Arbor

By Justin Adams

Now Bikes, scooters, ride sharing, e-bikes, The Ride. Alternative forms of transportation are in the news a lot these days. For many people, this is about reducing your carbon footprint or saving money. And while I am worried about those things, for me, this was just about sitting in traffic less, and getting more exercise.

Last year, I told my wife Abby that I was going to try out biking to work. Used to me rambling on about my latest “idea”, she nodded and smiled and said, “Okay, honey. Whatever you want...just wear a helmet...and don’t kill yourself.” With that endorsement, I started my experiment.

So, for the first few months, when I didn’t have to pick up the kids or travel for work, I biked on my Dad’s old Trek. The thing weighed about thirty pounds, and was too small for my frame, but it had barely been used, so it was a great way to try out the concept.

One of the first decisions is which route to take. The distance from our neighborhood to my office in downtown Ann Arbor is around seven and a half miles. There are three basic routes. You can take Packard, which has serviceable paths the whole way. You can take Washtenaw, which has no real path until you’re past “fast food row”. Or you can take the B2B path, which goes through the EMU campus, curves behind the hospital, and eventually puts you onto the Gallup Park path. Now if you’re going to downtown A2, this path actually increases the total biking distance around one and a half miles, so the extra time may not work. But you are biking alongside the majestic Huron River with no cars and traffic lights, so it feels almost magical on those warm summer evenings. I take Packard when I bike, unless I have business at the hospital, because I want to increase my total travel time as little as possible.

It took about thirty eight minutes to get to my office on Liberty. Driving, during rush hour, takes about twenty five minutes, door to door, but it can be longer. And it’s expensive. Parking downtown is an extra \$10.60 per day, on average, and if you add in gas and depreciation, it’s about fifteen dollars a day to get to work. The Ride, depending on the exact line, also takes around thirty five to forty minutes. Obviously, it’s relaxing to read while on the bus. The Ride provides a pass that my work pays for, which is twenty dollars a year, and makes it free to ride the bus. Otherwise, it’s \$1.50 each way.

Inclement weather is a manageable problem. The Ride number Five comes right to Cross Street and Oakwood, among other nearby stops. And the number Four, which has more frequent buses, stops right across from Dominos near EMU. So if the weather is spotty, you can throw the bike on the the front bike rack all the buses have and stay dry.

After a couple of months, the family and I were convinced that this was something I was going to stick with. So, late in the summer, I bought a new bike from Wheels in Motion. This cut my time down to around thirty three minutes, or about a fifteen to twenty percent improvement, and the bike was a better fit for my size. So, just to review, you can bike all the way to work and only add 7 minutes to your commute!

I know what you’re thinking. What about the cold? One of my surprises was that you could bike comfortably well into November, and pick it back up in late February, assuming sidewalks weren’t icy or snowy. Temperatures in the thirties are actually pretty pleasant once you get going. It turns out don’t need to wear a balaclava or show up at your morning meetings in a ski mask.

I know what you’re also wondering. Don’t you smell like B.O. when you get to the office? Well, admittedly, I do show up at the office glistening a bit, with sweat on my face. Depending on your line of work this may not be a problem. I work at a start-up, so flip flops and t-shirts are pretty typical. If you’re a portfolio manager meeting with clients at Zola’s, you need to give yourselves some extra time to cool off.

I guess this is all to say that biking across town is easier than it seems. Sure, the cars pull out on you occasionally, and it can feel sort of scary to not have your car around for unplanned trips, but between the bike, The Ride, Uber & Lyft, and the new scooters scattered around downtown, it’s easier and easier to accomplish. I hope to see other neighbors on the road.

P.S. I took one of the Bird scooters home from work one day. It goes around 13 miles an hour. It took around forty minutes to get home, and cost \$8.80. But it was a lot of fun. And sure enough, it was picked up a few hours later.

P.P.S. There is also a weekly ride to Ann Arbor on Fridays through Bike Ypsi (visit <https://bike.ypsi.org/weekly-rides/> for details)!



NPNA Yard Sale

Saturday, June 1, 2019 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. 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 24 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)



Making Doggie “Deposits” in NP

By Brett Snyder

Now that the cold of winter is (mostly) behind us our neighborhood dogs are getting out stretching their legs in this nice weather. Our dog owners do a great job picking up after their fur babies, but did you know you don't have to carry that stinky bag very far? There are several places around NP where you can drop off your dog waste – you don't have to carry it home! In addition to the trash cans at Recreation Park and the Edith Hefley Tot Lot some of our wonderful neighbors have made “making a deposit” very convenient. The following neighbors have placed an easily accessible trash can in front of their homes for this very purpose: 1128 North Congress, 1208 South Congress, 963 Sherman, and 1220 Sherman. So no matter where you are, you don't have far to go to drop it off. Many of us walk our dogs by these homes every day and appreciate their thoughtfulness! Thanks neighbors!



News from Rutherford Pool

It has been a long, cold winter and we are ready for some summer fun! Thank you to all who were able to donate towards building a new bath house. We are in the process of choosing the final plan. The plan will make use of the current four outer walls with new rooms inside, including some family changing rooms. The new bath house should be up and ready to go for the 2020 season. Our Friends of Rutherford Pool board has looked at the budget and I think we only raised the price of the Family Pass by \$10 and all the rest stayed the same. Reminder that you can purchase all passes at a reduced rate through the end of Memorial Day - save \$10 when you purchase by this date! Swim lessons registration has to be completed in person at the pool. Go to forpool.org to see the lesson schedule, buy passes and check out the calendar for the events for the summer.

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 or 734-483-4690) if you are interested in pitching in.

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. 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), Kira Berman (kiberman@umich.edu), or join the Facebook group by searching for "Friends of Ypsilanti Neighborhood Parks."

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 if you haven't been visited yet!

734-368-6945
amy@ajleo.com

AJ Leo
Electric & Solar

Amy Strutz
Master Electrician

Licensed & Insured ■ Solar Certified

Real Estate Update

The following homes are currently listed for sale:

1131 S. Congress	\$224,900
1221 S. Congress	\$145,000
1306 W. Cross	\$314,900
952 Sheridan St.	\$249,900
955 Sheridan St.	\$249,900

The following homes were recently sold (Since Jan. 1):

1215 N. Congress	\$287,000
1106 Grant	\$221,600
922 Sherman	\$205,000
106 N. Wallace	\$189,000
1109 Westmoorland	\$199,900

Dennis Longo, an NPNA resident and area Realtor® for 40 years, compiled the above information. Please contact him at Premier Choice Realty (300 North Huron, Ypsilanti 48197), 734-961-6600, 734-649-6182 cell, or dennis@premierchoicerealty.biz, 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.

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.

- **Community Cleanup Day** May 18
Throughout the city, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Normal Park Neighborhood Yard Sale** June 1
Normal Park, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **Ypsilanti Heritage Fest Home Tour** June 23
- **Independence Day Parade** July 4
- **Michigan Elvisfest** July 19-20
Riverside Park
- **NPNA Ice Cream Social & Annual Meeting** Aug 7
Senior Center, Recreation Park, 6:00 pm
- **Kids TRI-umph For Our Pool** Aug 10
Recreation Park, 8:30 am
- **YpsiFest** Aug 23-25
Riverside Park, Depot Town, Frog Island and Downtown
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** Oct 26
Parade starts at 3:00 pm at WIMA/WIHI

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
New Neighbor:	Angie Moloney
Graphics and Design:	Jennifer Beyer
Newsletter:	Adrienne Meyer
Website:	Eddie Fritz
Community Garden:	Jessica Faul
At-large members:	Kira Berman
	Rebecca Dunkle
	Stephanie Hart
	Alex Pettit