

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!

Thanks to Our Contributors!

Many thanks to this issue's contributors Mark Keillor, Lisa Bashert, Patrick McLean, and Anne Vandermade! Their work helps makes this a truly neighbor-driven publication. Join them in a future issue with a submission!

- 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.

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NPNA Upcoming Events

Children's Halloween Parade

Saturday, October 26 at 3:00 pm

Calling all young and young at heart! NPNA has run a Halloween parade and party for children for many years, and we invite you to join the fun! This year's NPNA Children's Halloween Parade will be Saturday, October 26 at 3:00pm. The parade will step off from WIMA/WIHI school on Mansfield 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!

- 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, we definitely need volunteers to help sweep, stack chairs, and generally tidy the center at around 4:30 pm when the party ends!

Please email newsletter@normalpark.org or call 734-484-4677 if you can help. If the parade winds down your street, be sure to come outside to cheer on the kids!

NPNA Night of Lights

Saturday, December 14 at 6:00pm

The annual Night of Lights is an event for neighbors to decorate their walkways with luminaries and to stroll around the neighborhood, keeping us connected at the start of the colder months. 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/NOL2019>. Please email NightOfLights.npna@gmail.com if you want to host a cider stop or have questions about the event.

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.

Swim with Ypsi Otters!

Shared by neighbor Mark Keillor

Swimming is a great life skill. It increases flexibility, burns calories, improves posture, is a total body workout, provides great cardio conditioning, is a great team sport that builds self-esteem and relieves stress. The Ypsilanti Otters Swim Club is an opportunity for kids to gain all of these benefits right here in Ypsi. My swimmer is currently 16, has been swimming with the Otters for 11 years, is on the Ypsilanti High School team and has grown up long, strong and healthy.

The Otters mission statement is "The Ypsilanti Otters Swim Club is a non-profit, community based swim organization that aspires to teach, train, and motivate swimmers at all skill levels. We believe that all children should have access to swimming opportunities, and so we support two interrelated swim programs: developmental and competitive. Members of our team learn respect, goal-setting, team-building, dedication, and sportsmanship, as well as build self-confidence and character, in an atmosphere of encouragement and instruction. Most of all, our swimmers are proud of themselves and their team, and they develop strong friendships and have fun." The Otters have a great coaching team including both HS Assistant Coaches as well as other seasoned coaches. They offer learn-to-swim groups as well as competitive swim groups. The Otters offer sibling discounts and a 50% discount for YCS students, and starting the fall of 2019, swim scholarships are available to those that qualify.

Registration for the Winter Session opens in December and starts Monday January 6, 2020. New swimmers should be swim tested prior to registering to verify their level. The Otters swim at the Ypsilanti High School during the school year and at Rutherford Pool in the summer. Contact the Ypsilanti Otters Swim Club at ypsiotters@gmail.com or on Facebook at "Yosc YpsiOtters". Check out our website at: <https://www.teamunify.com/team/miyaosc/page/home>

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

Plant with the RPCG!

Shared by neighbor Lisa Bashert

Recreation Park Community Garden (RPCG) was founded in 2004 as a partnership between the garden, the City of Ypsi, and the Senior/Community Center. I was an original gardener and Garden Steward for many years, so RPCG will always be a special place to me. It was founded to allow people to "grow their own," build community with neighbors, get closer to the earth, and learn about organic methods. And eat great tomatoes!!!

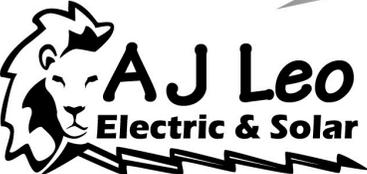
Just as the Ypsi Garden Club arose and (sadly) disbanded, and as the Senior Rose Garden and Point Garden (at Congress & Michigan) have experienced some great years and some "weedy" ones, all volunteer-run projects struggle at times. Maybe you've noticed that the past two summers have been "weedy years" at Rec Park's beautiful community garden.

RPCG has seen participation fall to lowered levels. Just a few of the original gardeners remain, but we're glad to report that leadership is reinvigorated. However, we need more neighborhood involvement!

How can you help? RPCG needs all kinds of help: tree pruning, help with ideas, general maintenance, fence care &/or replacement, and a few more dedicated GARDENERS in 2020. We hope to get together with other Ypsi community garden stewards over the winter and do some visioning and information sharing.

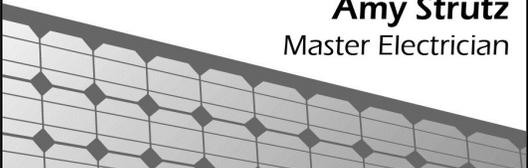
Interested? Contact Michelle (Garden Steward) at (734) 726-9494 or on1contour@gmail.com or Lisa (Assistant Steward) at (734) 255-0592 or wombbat@gmail.com.

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What's Happening on South Congress?

Researched and reported by neighbor Anne Vandermade

On August 15, 2019, the City of Ypsilanti posted a public notice that Cadillac Asphalt was the chosen contractor for the rejuvenation of several city roads in the late summer and early fall of the same year. As part of that extensive project, South Congress Street was set to be milled down, and a new asphalt surface applied. Part of the plan for South Congress Street also included changes to the curb outline, improved pedestrian sidewalk ramps, and revamped pavement markings.

Many Normal Park residents have expressed concern about the changes planned for South Congress Street, and increased safety for pedestrians has been a consistent concern in the community. Other impacts of these improvements include potentially fewer speeding cars, and full ADA compliant ramps once all of the alterations to the street are complete. When contacted for more information, the Department of Public Services office confirmed that the changes to the roadways and sidewalks were underway to increase overall safety for both pedestrians and drivers. Although it will take multiple years, an ongoing goal for the city is to have ADA compliant pedestrian ramps city-wide.

To better understand the changes planned for South Congress, we can look at the information provided by the National Association of City Transportation. Their website notes that these curb extensions (also called bump-outs, bulb-outs, build-outs, elephant ears, or curb bulbs) serve to narrow the roadway, which has a noticeable calming effect on traffic. These extensions also allow drivers greater visibility of pedestrians, cyclists, and other cars. Another benefit to pedestrians is that they get to enjoy a narrower crosswalk and greater visibility of oncoming traffic. When pedestrians stand in alignment with the parking lane, they will also be more visible to those on the roadway without having to enter the crosswalk to verify breaks in traffic. While these improvements undoubtedly cost several thousand dollars, they are a practical change that also allows the city the opportunity to bring their sidewalk ramps up to ADA standards.

The overall visual appeal of the neighborhood will also likely increase as these extensions lend themselves well to beautiful plants, decorations, benches, and other practical items based on the modest increase in available space. The city has vowed to do what they can to minimize the overall impact and inconvenience to the residents; however, the Director of the Department of Public Services, Ronald Akers, encourages individuals to call his office with any questions or concerns. Mr. Akers's contact information is as follows: Tel: (734) 483-1421 Email: RAkers@cityofypsilanti.com.

Meet Your Ward 2 Representative

Researched and reported by neighbor Patrick McLean

When Beth Bashert was elected as Ypsilanti Mayor, her seat on Ypsilanti City Council became vacant. Steve Wilcoxon, a 25-year resident of the city, was chosen from among ten candidates to fill the seat and was sworn in to represent Ward Two (primarily Normal Park and College Heights) last December. A College Heights resident who, with his wife, has raised two children in the community, Steve brings knowledge in the areas of water quality and sustainability to the council. I sat down with Steve over a beer at Corner Brewery to talk about why he decided to get involved in council and what he hopes to accomplish.

As a biochemist with degrees in biochemistry and environmental health, Steve has spent his professional career focused on environmental matters. With this background, it is not surprising that he's taken an interest in how best to remove the Peninsular Paper dam from the Huron River. He states that the city is working with the Huron River Watershed Council, and he hopes the city can minimize the impact of dam removal on property owners, keep costs as low as possible and restore the river and the watershed in a responsible way. Steve hopes to help the city navigate the changes in marijuana laws in ways that are fair, reasonable and equitable. He also imagines the city needing to play a major role in discussions around affordable housing, climate resilience and non-motorized transit. He also recognizes the need to find solutions to our ongoing recycling challenges.

Steve states that his focus is on making sure the city provides its citizens with quality services and using limited city resources efficiently and effectively. He is well-aware that the city has lost its recreation and parks department and is keen to ensuring that recreational opportunities for children and families are maintained. For example, he is a supporter of Rutherford Pool and maintaining city support for the Friends of Rutherford Pool. He also hopes to maintain adequate staffing levels for police and fire services.

Residents can reach Steve at swilcoxon@cityofypsilanti.com. He frequently holds coffee hours at local coffee shops, and dates and times for those can be found on the City of Ypsilanti website under "News." He also encourages all Ypsilanti residents to attend regular council meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at City Hall.

Real Estate Update

The following homes are currently listed **for sale**:

1014 W. Cross	\$330,000
1213 Sherman	\$300,000
1227 Washtenaw	\$200,000

The following homes were **recently sold** (Since May 1, 2019):

1304 N. Congress	\$219,900
1131 S. Congress	\$214,900
1108 W. Cross	\$315,000
1035 Washtenaw	\$317,000
1306 W. Cross	\$314,900
1111 Grant	\$275,000
1113 Grant	\$239,500
106 N. Mansfield	\$195,000
156 N. Mansfield	\$205,000
213 Oakwood	\$255,500
472 Owendale	\$200,000
914 Pearl	\$240,000
911 Sheridan	\$244,000
922 Sheridan	\$205,000
930 Sheridan	\$269,000
938 Sheridan	\$300,000
952 Sheridan	\$260,000
955 Sheridan	\$230,550
101 N. Summit	\$183,500
209 N. Summit	\$145,000
50 S. Summit	\$275,000

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.

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.

Open positions on the Board and for volunteer opportunities are available!!

We are looking for residents who are interested in planning activities in the neighborhood. Curious? Drop an email to president@normalpark.org. We welcome any level of commitment, big or small. (And board meetings have great snacks!)

Mark your Calendar



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

- **Halloween Downtown & YpsiGLOW** **Oct. 25**
Washington Street, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** **Oct. 26**
WIMA/WIHI, Step off at 3:00 pm
- **Trick or Treat in Ypsilanti** **Oct. 31**
Traditionally from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- **YMOW Holiday Home Tour** **Dec. 7**
Various locations, 3:00 - 11:00 pm
- **NPNA Night of Lights** **Dec. 14**
All around Normal Park, starting at 6:00 pm!
- **DIYpsi Holiday Market** **Dec. 14-15**
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: OPEN
Treasurer: Megan Brown
CoPAC: Catie Bilz
Greenscape: Jessica Faul
New Neighbor: Angie Moloney
Graphics and Design: Jennifer Beyer
Newsletter: Adrienne Meyer
Website: Kerri Pepperman
Community Garden: Jessica Faul
At-large members: Kira Berman
Rebecca Dunkle
Stephanie Hart
Alex Pettit
Jason Ringholz