

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 Finn Bell, Joyce Fraker, Casey Kozłowski, Lori Mosher, and Sarah Walsh! Their work helps makes this a truly neighbor-driven publication. Consider joining 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 29 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 29 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. We're thrilled to report that the Ypsilanti High School band will lead the parade!

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.
- Route guides: We need a few adults to lead the parade to ensure safety at key neighborhood intersections.
- 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 if you can help. If the parade winds down your street, be sure to come outside to cheer on the kids!



Observations from the YDL Book Sale

Casey Kozlowski, Elm Street

"You don't NEED any more books," I told myself when the notice of the Ypsilanti District Library's upcoming book sale caught my eye. I even did a plus/minus decision diagram as to the reasons to attend and not to attend. What a waste of pencil lead. In my heart of English-major hearts, I knew I had to go. Breathe that air of a book-filled room, rub elbows with My People, those book lovers of the area, fondle books by my favorite authors, and just maybe find a true treasure! (There is some of the thrill of the hunt in sales such as that, don't you think?)

So off I went on Friday morning, September 23, to the Whittaker Branch's Community Room. The sale started on Thursday, for members of the Friends of the Library, then continued through Sunday for the general public.

If you want a deal on books, this is the place to check out! Small paperbacks are a QUARTER! Prices go up from there, but not by much! On Sunday, a bag of books is 4 bucks!

When I visited our Michigan Avenue branch a few days ago, Jerome kindly filled me in on the workings of the sale. (According to other librarians, "Jerome knows everything about everything.") Turns out sales are held not annually as I thought, but in January, May, and September. Evidently the organization of Friends of the Library manages the books that are donated by our bookworm citizens. They assess the books, decide which will be included in the sale, and categorize them. (HUGE job!!) I truly appreciated seeing the books divided among categories such as History, Fiction, Large Print, and Children's books. The Friends staff the sale, as well, and I can attest to their being lovely people with whom to engage.

Near the end of my hunt, I noticed an elderly woman with a large amount of books she'd set aside. She was matching them to the typed inventory of books she already had, intending to avoid duplicates. Many sheets of paper in a loose-leaf binder, all single-spaced! During our conversation, she commented that she never gets rid of a book. I suspect her bookshelves put mine to shame. I imagine her living in a place that looks like Literati or Booksweet. Cozy.

A young woman who appeared to be a college student, judging by her "M gear," was filling one of those very large plastic totes with her finds. She told me she was buying for herself and for friends who couldn't make the Friday sale. It warmed my heart to see that young people are still interested in handling real books! All's right with the world.

I wish I'd talked with more people there. Shoulda, coulda, woulda. Next time. Watch for the next YDL book sale, advertised in YDL's The Loop newsletter. I guarantee you an adventure! And, consider joining the Friends of the Library; I'm guessing that's an adventure of its own! If you're already a patron of the book sales, you know those statements to be true.

Ypsilanti Senior Center Volunteers Wanted!

Sarah Walsh, YSC Board President (and Woods Rd. resident)

Do you love Ypsilanti and want to make it a great place to live and age? Do you have a broad social network? Do you have a passion for marketing, web design or social media? Are you an experienced fundraiser? Are you enthusiastic about our community and want to find a way to give back? If you answered yes to any of those questions, the Ypsilanti Senior Center needs you!

The Ypsilanti Senior Center has been creating great experiences for older adults right here in Normal Park for more than sixty years. But we need your help to ensure we can continue to offer exceptional programs and services for the next sixty.

Our small-but-mighty staff relies on help from volunteers to keep the Center running, and there are plenty of ways to get involved. In particular, we are seeking self-nominations for our Board of Directors. If you'd like to learn more about the Board, you can email Board President Sarah Walsh at ypsi.sarah@gmail.com to set up a coffee or chat. When you're ready, you can call the Senior Center at 734-483-5014 to request an application.

What's Going On at 1110 W. Cross?

Lori Mosher, Sherman Court

You probably drive by almost every day, but are you aware of all the activity going on inside this Ypsilanti mainstay?

Of course, you know that this building's primary function is as the home of First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti, an American Baptist church that has worshiped and served in Ypsilanti since 1836. FBCY is a multi-generational & ethnically diverse congregation where you can explore Christianity at your own pace. Sunday services include music, prayer, and practical, Bible-based messages. We encourage you to leave the suit and tie at home and join in person or online at 11:00 am on Sunday morning. Check them out at <https://www.fbcypsilanti.org> or on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchofYpsilanti>.

You have probably also noticed that Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels is headquartered at this address. This amazing organization has provided meal delivery support for almost 50 years to older adults and the medically fragile of the greater Ypsilanti area. In 2021, YMOW provided food, pet assistance, pantry access, and case management support to over 420 local residents and delivered over 122,000 meals. Current needs for YMOW are for volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays for mini-route delivery from 11:30 am - 1 pm. You can also help us stock our pantry with needed supplies via our wishlist on <https://ymow.org/donate/pantry/>. Learn more about YMOW at <https://ymow.org/>, or on Facebook on <https://www.facebook.com/YpsiMealsonWheels>. Sign up to volunteer at <https://ymow.org/volunteer/>.

This address is also the home base for another church, Mosaic - Ypsilanti. Mosaic is a non-denominational church that focuses on equipping and planting new congregations throughout the area. Their goal is to be a congregation as diverse as the city it serves. Contemporary worship services are held online or in person on Sundays @ 9:00 AM on the second floor (entrance under the canopy in the back). Take a look at what Mosaic is all about at <https://www.mosaica2.org/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MosaicA2/>.

Our newest addition is Jewish Family Services. This organization is using one of our third-floor rooms to tutor newly arrived immigrants and refugees in English. Close to twenty non-English speakers from Mexico and Central America, the Middle East, and other nations meet for classes Monday through Thursday. We are happy to share our building with this organization which endeavors to support the newly arrived transition to life in the USA.

Finally, First Baptist has meeting space available for the community to use. Currently, a number of civic groups, two amateur theater troupes, a 12-Step program, and Ypsi-Belleville Young Life use our building for their regular meetings. Meeting space for up to 30 people is available. For more information, email connect@fbcypsilanti.org.

We love being part of the Normal Park community and are honored to share our space with you!



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Spring on the Boulevard

Joyce Fraker, Westmoorland Street

About ten years ago some enterprising neighbors on the 1300 block of Westmoorland St. planted tulips and other bulbs on their boulevard. The following spring the whole neighborhood was surprised with an enchanting display of tulips and daffodils! I live on the 1200 block of Westmoorland, and am happy that my house is on this lovely boulevard. So... that summer I commented on the magic of the spring garden at our annual "Potluck on the Boulevard." Well, those cheeky 1300 block neighbors said "We were waiting to see if the 1200 block neighbors would follow our lead." Oh, you bet! That fall I took up the challenge and with some help from my sister and daughter, we planted tulips at our end of the boulevard. Every year since then, more and more of my 1200 block neighbors joined the fun and now both boulevards are proof that Westmoorland's community spirit and pride is alive and well. Thank you to all my neighbors!

Earlier this summer I was in communication with our mayor Lois Richardson who assured me that the city will respect and support our spring garden project. We have become the talk of city hall! Thank you Ms. Mayor and also Ronald Akers for your support. It is that time of year to take a few minutes to plant a few bulbs in order to keep our community project fresh and colorful. See you on the boulevard!



Pictures from previous NPNA Children's Halloween Parade and Parties!

Support Unhoused Neighbors through Peace House Ypsi

Finn Bell, Pearl Street

As a frequenter of the annual neighborhood yard sale, as well as freebies on the curb, I noticed how we seem to have an abundance of outdoorsy gear as a neighborhood! As the weather turns cold, I'm hoping that some of you may be interested in linking with Peace House Ypsi (<http://www.missiona2.org/peace-house-ypsi.html>) to redistribute some of that abundance to our homeless neighbors. Peace House Ypsi is a house of hospitality in the tradition of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement. Here are some of the big needs that our unhoused neighbors have as winter approaches:

- Tents and (green or brown) tarps: While our biggest need for these is in the Spring when the warming centers first close for the season, these things generally are not made for full time living and those who are still outside often need to replace items as they winterize camps.
- Sleeping bags, especially zero degree bags or those made for even colder temps
- Heaters: This is probably our biggest need. It is important that heaters be safe for indoors and have the safety feature of turning off when they tip over. The brand that I usually look for is Mr. Heater Portable Buddy heater.
- Propane: The small green tanks are usually easiest to keep on hand.
- Winter boots, in good condition (a hole in your boot leading to a wet foot is awful when you don't get to "go home and kick them off")
- Winter coats
- Long johns/thermals: This is the one item I always ask that they be new
- Hoodies and sweatshirts (especially XL and larger): Think layering
- Hand warmers: I am already getting lots of requests for these!
- Hats, gloves, and mittens
- Flashlights and batteries: Fall and winter also mean it is getting dark earlier. Folks not only need to get back their tent often through woods, but also can use to read in their tents
- Gift cards to coffee shops, fast food places etc.: A good way to be able to hang out somewhere for a bit and warm up!

We have a box for you to drop off donations on the front porch of 1123 Pearl, and it would be great to collect all donations by December 15, 2022. No need to knock, just come on in the front porch and don't mind the dog inside the house! If you would rather give to support Peace House's overall work, you can Venmo @Sheri-Wander. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at finnmcbell@gmail.com or 734-604-7329.

Thanks so much for considering!

Real Estate Update

The following homes are currently listed for sale:

43 S. Summit	\$250,000
959 Washtenaw	\$375,900

The following homes have sales pending:

1102 W. Cross	\$374,900
350 N. Mansfield	\$279,000

The following homes were sold since March 1, 2022:

1503 W. Cross St.	\$200,000
1512 W. Cross St.	\$388,500
210 Elm St.	\$320,000
1109 Grant St.	\$385,700
114 Linden Ct.	\$369,000
8 N. Mansfield St.	\$227,000
7 Oakwood St.	\$390,000
214 Oakwood St.	\$225,000
219 Oakwood St.	\$417,998
1214 Pearl St.	\$300,000
1219 Pearl St.	\$406,000
912 Sheridan St.	\$297,000
959 Sherman St.	\$420,959
1005 Sherman St.	\$275,000
5 N. Summit St.	\$280,000
201 N. Wallace Blvd.	\$230,000
1239 Washtenaw Rd.	\$298,500
1306 Westmoorland	\$347,500

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.

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. (P.S. Board meetings have great snacks!)

Mark your Calendar



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

- **ypsiGLOW** **Oct 28**
7:00 pm Downtown
<https://www.ypsireal.com/event/ypsiglow-2022/11097/>
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** **Oct 29**
Parade starts at 3:00 pm at WIMA/WIHI
- **All Hallows Illumination of Frog Island** **Nov 1**
7:00 pm Frog Island Park
<https://www.facebook.com/events/699331254509359/>
- **Ypsi Artisans Holiday Market**
Weekends starting November 26
10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Ypsilanti Freight House
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1167523410834380/1167523427501045/>

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 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
Greenscape:	Caren Putzu
New Neighbor:	Angie Moloney
Newsletter:	Adrienne Meyer
Website:	Kerri Pepperman
At-large members:	Kira Berman
	Stephanie Hart
	Alex Pettit
	Jason Ringholz

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.