

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 Sean Driscoll, Lisa Bashert, and Diane Zahn! 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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Thank you, Normal Park Neighbors

My spouse and I moved into Normal Park in 2005 while he was in university, with the idea that we'd be here for the four years he needed to finish his degree, after which we'd likely have to move due to job opportunities. So in mid 2008, when one of my neighbors approached me about getting involved with the board of the NPNA, I agreed to help out by taking over the newsletter, assuming I'd be passing the torch in a year or two.

Since then, we've raised a toddler to a high school graduate, had multiple work transitions (all right here in southeast Michigan), mourned family losses, celebrated new beginnings, and generally had experienced all that life can throw at you when you sit still for a while, which we have done now right here in beautiful Normal Park for almost 20 years. Throughout it all, I have considered myself lucky that we chose this city and neighborhood from all of the places we looked at (and there were many!) to call our home. We love our sidewalks and local pool, our walkability to downtown and beautiful trees...and most of all, our neighbors. Although I'm a bit biased to think that we live in the best part of the neighborhood (PEARL STREET RULES) with some of the best next door neighbors on either side of us that one could hope for (shout out to Beth & Ed and Donna & Tim), in truth this whole place is a bit magical I think. Normal Park allows people to get to know one another in small and big ways, and every interaction we have as neighbors helps reinforce the important concept of community and care. I'm grateful I've had a chance to be a part of it.

Now, I'm not going anywhere (that I'm aware of), but after struggling to juggle the creation, printing, and distribution of this newsletter, it has come time to transition this work to another group of neighbors. I'll be working with them over the coming months to ensure they have all they need to bring you a great autumn 2023 issue.

Thank you to everyone who has helped support this newsletter over the years! I hope that I've helped make it the voice of Normal Park, and I look forward to see where it goes.

Adrienne Meyer

NPNA Upcoming Events

NPNA Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, June 3 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, 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 or on <https://tinyurl.com/2023NPNAYearSale>. 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 3.

The \$10 online/\$12 paper registration fee will get your home included on a neighborhood map with descriptions of your items for 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 26. Submissions received after this date unfortunately cannot be included on the paper map.

Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, August 2 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.

2023 (Not Quite) Normal Festival!

From Diane Zahn of 9 Live House Concert series

Soul-hungry for live music by great performers? Here's your chance!

5 nights of outdoor, live, in-person music, all in genteel, beautifully bohemian Normal Park, Ypsilanti - get this fabulous made-in-Michigan lineup!

- May 6 – Jason Dennie & Rochelle Clark
www.rochelleclark.com
www.jasondennie.com
- May 20 – Stella!
www.thestellagirls.com
- July 15 – Dick Siegel & Dave Roof
<https://www.facebook.com/dicksiegel21/>
- August 5 – Annie & Rod Capps
<https://annieandrodccapps.com/>
- August 19 – The Whiskey Charmers
<https://thewhiskeycharmners.com/>

All shows @7PM. Tickets by \$15-20 exact change cash donation per person, with all proceeds going to the performers.

Contact Diane of 9 Live House Concerts on danz@sprynet.com for info/directions/safety rules/reserved seating.

All these artists have great catalogs [Diane has signed, well-worn CDs as testimony], and these events will likely showcase fresh songs from at least 4 brand new records, at her last count – don't miss a festival minute!

Ypsilanti's Bicentennial!



Join us as our beloved Ypsilanti celebrates 200 years! We kicked off 2023 with a new year's ball drop and that was just the start as there will be many more opportunities for family fun, community gatherings, and plenty of history lessons all throughout the year.

Mark your calendars as you won't want to miss any of these events!

- Bicentennial Main Event – Sat, Aug 19th
- Time Capsule Reveal – Tues, July 4th
- Book Release: Ypsilanti Histories – Sun, July 16th
- Historic Walking Tours – See Website for Dates
- Riverside Nature Walks – Monthly, 2nd Sundays

Visit the website for a full list of events, along with fast facts and information on how to support the Bicentennial at ypsireal.com/ypsi200

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/YpsiBicentennial



Call for NPNA Volunteers

The Normal Park Neighborhood Association exists as a way for this neighborhood to come together and run fun social events, inform each other about activities, and generally strength the amazing bond we have as neighbors. Events — such as the Yard Sale in June, the Ice Cream Social in August, the Children's Halloween Parade in October, and the Night of Lights in December — are organized by a small group of volunteers, many of whom have lived in this neighborhood for a few decades and have been volunteering with the NPNA for just as long. And we need help!

Would you be interested in joining in on the fun to help create social events for our neighborhood? Or are you a writer or organizer who would like to be a bit more behind the scenes? All opportunities provide a way to meet new neighbors and make new connections! Here are some ways you could join in:

- Take over the organization of an established event! This is great for those who want to meet others but would prefer to not design an activity. The organizers of all of the above events are willing to train so that we can have multiple people who are able to run the events that our neighborhood loves. We've been organizing these events for a long time and would like to ensure that they are transitioned properly to others.
- Create a new event! So you're the creative type, eh? Well, join us at a board meeting to talk through your idea of an activity for neighbors! We would love to shake things up a little.
- Get involved with the writing, production, or delivery of this newsletter! This twice-yearly newsletter is the voice of the neighborhood, and to keep it relevant, new perspectives need to be heard.
- Just help out! We are always seeking people who can join the board and help out a few hours every few months.

Join us by contacting president@normalpark.org.

History of the Recreation Park Community Garden (RPCG)

Lisa Bashert

In the beginning – RPCG was founded by the City of Ypsilanti, Growing Hope Center, and the NPNA in 2004. Resident Jenna Bacolor led 25 volunteers in removing sod, spreading compost, laying out plots and planting them. We had 36 gardeners our first year. RPCG had 20 8'x8' half plots, and provided a sunny location to grow veggies for neighbors without sun or who wished to garden together. We took a justice approach with sliding-scale fees (from \$5-\$50/yr); plus we donated 3 plots as part of the Plant A Row for the Hungry program that distributed fresh vegetables via Food Gatherers. From the very beginning, RPCG has used organic gardening methods and helped educate & advocate about the benefits of doing so. For those who previously had community garden plots in Ann Arbor, it was exciting to bring the love closer to home!

Early years – In 2005, Jenna moved on to found Normal Park Community Garden (then West Middle School garden). Lisa Bashert took over as volunteer garden steward. RPCG expanded in 2007 to 30 half plots, with several combined to offer 8'x16' full plots. We created a Three Sisters garden with signage in 2006-09, which showcased Native American gardening methods. We were featured on the Tour de Fresh bike tours for several years. Our strong partnership with Growing Hope led to many classes taught by gardeners on topics like Gardening 101, making cold frames, dooryard herbs and more. RPCG formed our first Garden Council in 2010, formalizing some roles like plot sitter, border patrol, & compost king! Every year, we took part in the Ypsi PRIDE community cleanup day in May, receiving lots of help from EMU sports teams annually. We added two dwarf pear trees in 2012; they are available for all neighbors to pick from. In 2015, solar panels went up on the Senior Center, with our enthusiastic support.

Transitional years – in 2014-16, beekeeper and longtime RPCG gardener Jamie Berlin became the volunteer garden steward. (Lisa remained as a gardener.) The garden experimented with using Hour Exchange Ypsi (timebank hours) in a community garden context. We built a communal Herb Garden on the site of the former Three Sisters garden. In 2017, a recruit from EMU agreed to serve as garden steward but vanished from the scene shortly thereafter; and there was no steward in 2018. Michelle Camilleri volunteered her leadership in 2019 and stepped up to help re-build our infrastructure. Michelle & Lisa paired up in 2020-21 – we spiffed up our rainwater tank so that our water costs to partners were lower.

Renewal in Pandemic Times – RPCG installed a new fence partially donated by R & D Enterprises and we repaired our picnic table, using all neighborhood labor. A neighborhood Girl Scout completed her Gold Award project by installing Bee Hotels & native wildflower gardens in the garden. Our garden stewards today are Mary Burton, Megan Nicholson & Lisa Bashert. We are proud of our organic garden and we are looking forward to our 20th anniversary next year!

RPCG can always use the following: straw bales, large pieces of cardboard, and unused bags of wood chips. These items can be left inside the gate, with our gratitude! To learn more about RPCG, watch our bulletin board for fliers about upcoming work parties and stop by to lend a hand. Contact Lisa at wombbat@gmail.com for more info.



NPNA Yard Sale

Saturday, June 3, 2023 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** on <https://tinyurl.com/2023NPNA Yard Sale>. 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 26 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)



Real Estate Update

The following homes are currently listed
for sale as of April 5, 2023:

1217 S. Congress	\$199,900
1402 W. Cross	\$367,900

The following homes were **sold** since November 1, 2022:

1101 W. Cross St.	\$170,000
1111 W. Cross St.	\$285,000
1005 W. Cross St.	\$310,000
350 N. Mansfield St.	\$279,000
98 Oakwood St.	\$375,000
918 Sherman St.	\$324,900
108 N. Wallace Blvd.	\$225,300
1213 Westmoorland	\$380,000
1303 Westmoorland	\$425,000

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.

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 again, board meetings have great snacks!)

Mark your Calendar



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

- **Normal Park Neighborhood Yard Sale** June 3
Normal Park, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **NPNA Ice Cream Social** Aug 2
Senior Center, Recreation Park, 6:00 pm
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** Oct 28
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 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:	Watch this space!
Website:	Kerri Pepperman
At-large members:	Kira Berman Stephanie Hart Alex Pettit Jason Ringholz Scott Bethune Shannon Baer Katia Lev Alex Pietrantonio Nina Gilmore Jessica Howell Eric Nicholson

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.