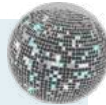


What is the NPNA?

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 Joyce Fraker, Sarah Hechler, Jasmyon Toolles, Jessica Alyson, Leah Fox, and Angela Scott! Their work helps makes this a truly neighbor-driven publication. Consider joining them in a future issue with a submission.

Writer's block? Here's some ideas to get you started: Neighborhood spotlights, local events and announcements, community initiatives, DIY projects, recipes, and photos taken around the neighborhood!

Interested? Write us at newsletter@normalpark.org.

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Hello From The New NPNA Newsletter Editor

Adrienne produced a great neighborhood newsletter for years, and has officially passed off the torch. I'm Courtenay Toolles, resident on Summit St., and the new NPNA newsletter editor. I'm excited to keep this long-standing, Normal Park tradition going.

This issue feels special, not only because it's my first of hopefully many as the editor, but because it's full of ways to get involved with our neighbor's initiatives and businesses. With the news of Go! and Unicorn Feed & Supply, it's a great reminder to support all our favorite local establishments. My family loves Rutherford Pool, Hyperion, Fun Girl, Ypsi Cocktail Club, Basil Babe, Shrimp Flavours, and The Rocket (plus so many more!). You can find us biking to all of those whenever we have free time. I hope that even with the seasons changing, and we all want to stay inside more, we find ways to support all the small businesses and nonprofits here in Ypsi that make our town unique.

NPNA Upcoming Events

**Children's Halloween Parade
Saturday, October 28 at 3:00 pm**



Calling all young and young at heart! You are invited to join us the NPNA Children's Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28!

The parade will step off from WIMA/WiHi on Mansfield at 3pm. The route will wind through the neighborhood to the Senior Center where we will conclude with a party inside. We're thrilled to have the YCS band lead us again this year!

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 post here if it has to be canceled, but if it's just a few sprinkles, bring your umbrellas and join us! If you're not marching in the parade, be sure to cheer the kids and band on as they come by.

The NPNA will provide apple cider, and we ask for donations of snacks* for the kids and for help with clean up and set up. (*Just no candy - the kids will get enough of that on the 31st!) If you march and can bring a plate of snacks beforehand, that would be great! We set up the Senior Center at 12pm and clean up the Senior Center after 4pm, so stop by to help if you can!

Normal Park Neighbors Bond Over Cat Rescue

By Joyce Fraker

In May, a feral momma kitty and her five kittens took up residence in my backyard. Over the next few months I would find out that Momma kitty was making her family at home in at least five of our neighbor's yards. It turns out that in 2021 Neighbor #1 rescued her kittens; last year Neighbor #2 rescued her kittens, including an injured one needing medical attention.



I committed myself, with the help of my family, to rescuing this beautiful cat family. Little did I know I was not the only neighbor committed to this cause!

In July we were able to trap Momma kitty, and she was spayed with the help of Huron Valley Humane Society's Trap Neuter Release (TNR) program. I released her back to my yard with the knowledge I would need to make sure she had food and shelter. I also trapped two of the kittens, and we are in the process of socializing them in our home. Since then, I have tried numerous times to trap the remaining three kittens, but all I got for my efforts were two raccoons and a skunk! On September 19 I put fliers in my neighbors' boxes asking if anyone knew where the kittens were residing, and if they would be willing to help with the TNR process. That is when I learned Momma kitty has quite a history with my neighborhood!

Neighbors responded to the outreach, and filled in the kitty history. I am now teamed with Neighbor #1, who has been caring for the little family, and we will be working together to spay/neuter the kittens. These beautiful creatures did not ask to be born into an environment that is not conducive to their well being. This summer I have learned that I have many neighbors who agree that taking care of these "critters" is best, not only for kitties, but also for the neighborhood. My thanks to all the neighbors on Westmoorland, Cross, and Wallace Streets who have supported us in this effort..

- Joyce Fraker

Neighborhood Babysitting Co-Op

By Sarah Hechler

Calling all parents! There is an effort afoot to organize a Normal Park Babysitting Co-op. Neighborhood babysitting co-ops are a wonderful way not only to exchange occasional childcare, but also to build community. They help parents and children alike to know each other better, trust each other more, and come together in a spirit of sharing, friendship, and mutual support.

If you are interested in being kept in the loop about developments and/or potentially joining in the future, please email Sarah Hechler at sarah.louise.bush@gmail.com

Support a Local Nonprofit!

Fright Night At The Freight
Friday, October 27 at 6:30 pm



Celebrate Ypsilanti and benefit Washtenaw county foster youth by supporting a nonprofit headquartered in Normal Park. Enjoy an evening of music, dancing, good food, drinks, costume contests, and more! You in or what?!

More info: <https://www.ourhousemi.org/>

Secret Santa Society of Ypsi

By Jessica Alyson

"Mom said Santa's not coming this year," a little one announced at a school meeting.

"Of course he is," a chorus of adults responded.

"Not this year, mom says he's too busy."

And with that, a local holiday movement began.

The Secret Santa Society of Ypsi started after this conversation in 2018 when Normal Park neighbor, Jessica Ashmore, and her family anonymously dropped off presents and food on the porches of a handful of Ypsi families. A career in social service allowed Jessica to see firsthand the level of need across Washtenaw County, especially in her own city of Ypsilanti. Families, struggling to afford the rising cost of living, simply could not fund a holiday on top of that. Little ones all over Ypsi had to accept that this holiday, that is publicized everywhere, wasn't going to happen this year.

The Secret Santa Society of Ypsi has experienced a meteoric expansion since 2018. Hundreds of volunteers and donors have shown up to support over 240 families in four years. Referrals come from Ypsilanti schools and community agencies, with families that have experienced housing instability being prioritized.

The average number of families supported is 75, with every member of the household asked to complete a wish list. Gifts are both fun and functional, with new bedding, winter wear, clothes and shoes being provided for most members of the household. Pots and pans, dishes, towels are commonly requested items with loads of toys included for the little ones. Gifts are wrapped by "Elves" every weekend through the month of December at the Michigan Firehouse Museum in downtown Ypsilanti.

Late Christmas Eve, "Reindeer" arrive to fill their trucks and vans and are prepped for delivery. Each family receives: wrapped gifts, holiday meals, personal care items, cleaning supplies, and paper products delivered right to their doorstep.

How can you help?

- You can volunteer your time as an Elf, Runner or Reindeer.
- You can sign up to be part of team and buy gifts from a family wish list.
- You can donate money to buy food, personal care items, miscellaneous gifts and cleaning products.
- You can purchase items from our Amazon wish list.
- You can contact us for more info: secretsantasocietyypsi@gmail.com

Secret Santa Society of Ypsi is a 501(c)(3) and 100% of all donations go towards this program. Hundreds of volunteers are responsible for the growth of this holiday magic. Some might doubt if Santa is real, but they're alive and well in this lovely Southeastern Michigan town. We hope to see you this holiday season!

Music Together in Ypsilanti!

By Leah Fox

Hello neighbors—my name is Leah Fox. I've lived in Normal Park with my family for the last ten years, and I love being a part of this vibrant community. Since fall of 2022, I've been able to offer Music Together classes right here in Ypsilanti, at Riverside Arts Center downtown through Robinsongs for Kids. Here are some FAQ's about Music Together:

What are Music Together classes?

Music Together is a research based music program for young children (5 and under) and the adults who love them. Classes include singing, dancing, and instrument play, and all families receive an illustrated songbook, new family guidebook and a CD/digital download of the music for that session. Music Together is centered around the philosophy that all children are musical. We believe that music ability is as much a natural life skill as walking or talking, and that all children can achieve basic competence in music, provided their early music environment is sufficiently rich, and that it is a child's birthright to participate with confidence and pleasure in the music of our culture.

What is a typical class like?

We meet weekly for 45-minute classes, over a 10-week session. We offer sessions in fall, winter, and spring, and sometimes a shorter summer session. Every class is meant to be an immersive music experience for the kiddos—we spend the entire class “speaking” the language of music through singing and movement. We play simple instruments such as shakers, rhythm sticks, jingle bells, or move with scarves and rhythm bands. This means all of the adults in the room are moving and singing with me! It is not a “Ms. Leah” concert—rather it is a time for all of the adults to model music-making for the little ones. We have fun with music because the best way for young children to learn is through immersion and play. Our mixed-age classes are meant for children 9 months through 5 years old. There are also classes specifically for babies (newborn-9 months) and older kids (4-8 years old) offered at the Ann Arbor location.



Can I try out a class? How can I learn more?

Yes! Please do! You can check out www.robinsongsforkids.com to sign up for a free demo class. At the Ypsilanti location, I teach classes on Mondays at 10AM and 11AM, and on Tuesdays at 10AM, and there are many class options at the Ann Arbor location with Robin. I will also teach a free demo session at the Ypsilanti District Library (Whittaker Rd) on Friday, December 8, at 11AM. You can register at any point in a semester.

You can email me directly at lfoxpiano@gmail.com or Robin at director@robinsongsforkids.com if you'd like to learn more!

Real Estate Update

As of **September 22, 2023**, there were no homes for sale and one **pending**:

209 N. Wallace Blvd. \$375,000

The following homes were **sold** since January 1, 2023:

930 N. Congress	\$165,000
1308 N. Congress	\$344,805
1217 S. Congress	\$208,000
1111 W. Cross St.	\$285,000
1306 W. Cross St.	\$430,000
1402 W. Cross St.	\$375,000
1006 Grant St.	\$328,200
1124 Grant St.	\$370,000
120 Linden Ct.	\$290,000
115 Oakwood St.	\$310,000
919 Pleasant Dr.	\$371,000
1204 Sherman St.	\$397,800
959 Washtenaw	\$330,500
1245 Washtenaw.	\$261,000
108 N. Wallace Blvd.	\$225,300
203 N. Wallace Blvd.	\$360,000
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!)

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.



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:	Courtenay Tooles
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