

## 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](http://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: **Amanda Edmonds, Andrea Linn, Patrick McLean, Lisa Bashert, Anne M. Hooghart, Ph.D., Diane Zahn, and Dennis Longo.** Their work helps makes this a truly neighbor-driven publication. Consider joining them in a future issue with a submission.

Write us at [newsletter@normalpark.org](mailto:newsletter@normalpark.org).

## In this Newsletter

Upcoming Events	Pg. 1
Mosquito Control in Normal Park	Pg. 2
96 <sup>th</sup> Annual 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade	Pg. 2
Letter from City Council	Pg. 3
A Visit to Alabama	Pg. 3
Japan-Themed Summer Camp	Pg. 4
House Concert Series	Pg. 4
Real Estate Update	Pg. 4

## NPNA Upcoming Events

### NPNA Annual Yard Sale Saturday, June 6 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 fundraiser 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 and posts signs at the boundaries of our neighborhood. 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](http://www.normalpark.org) or on <http://tiny.cc/uns3101>. 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 5.

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 May 29, 2026. Submissions received after this date unfortunately cannot be included on the paper map.



## Mosquito Control in Normal Park

By Amanda Edmonds

With such a wet spring, it's a good time to think collectively about how we manage mosquitoes in our neighborhood. The more of us who take simple, ecologically appropriate steps, the better it will be for everyone.

1) The most important prevention strategy is eliminating standing water—even small amounts in items like empty pots, toys, or containers that can collect rain. Mosquitoes only need a tiny amount of water to breed. Historical mosquito control efforts, including malaria eradication campaigns in places like Jamaica in the mid-20th century, relied in part on consistent household-level prevention alongside broader public health measures. It's helpful to do a quick standing water check around your yard at least once a week.

2) If you intentionally have standing water, such as in a rain barrel or pond, consider using mosquito dunks labeled for that purpose. These contain *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTi), a naturally occurring bacterium that targets mosquito larvae. When used as directed, BTi is considered safe for pets, people, and pollinators. (More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/pdfs/bti-508.pdf>) Products like Summit Mosquito Dunks (available locally, including at Ypsi Ace) are designed for this use. Rain barrels should also have a tight lid or screen to prevent mosquitoes from accessing the water. Note that BTi is used in different formulations (spraying bottles for instance to target caterpillar pests) for other pest control applications, but those are not the same as products designed for mosquito larvae in standing water.

3) Another option is a simple DIY mosquito bucket trap. I tried this last year and found it helpful, especially for reducing mosquitoes around our deck. These traps use a bucket filled with water, organic matter (like straw or plant clippings), and a mosquito dunk to attract egg-laying mosquitoes and stop larvae from developing. Refresh the BTi about once a month during the season. Here's a short demonstration from University of Delaware Extension: <https://youtu.be/c2bSjj1pubg?si=DXvV7Lpao02tQU36>. If multiple households use these, they can help reduce the overall mosquito population in the area.

Thanks for helping make our neighborhood more comfortable this summer—fewer mosquitoes mean more time to enjoy being outside!

## Ypsilanti's 96th Annual 4th of July Parade!

Submission by Andrea Linn

Commander Josh McAllister of American Legion Post 282 and the City of Ypsilanti are proud to announce our 96th Annual 4th of July Parade - Michigan's oldest! Kicking off on Saturday July 4th at 11:00am, it will proceed east on West Cross Street from Oakwood to Rice Street. This will also be our celebration of the Nation's 250th anniversary!

Students of local history know that three Frenchmen, Gabriel Godfroy, Francois Pepin and Romaine La Chambre, established a Trading Post in 1809 at the juncture of the Huron River and the Potawatomi Trail (Huron Street just north of Michigan Avenue.) Godfroy's Trading Post was the first European presence in this area and Ypsilanti grew up around it. So, we are excited to announce this year's Honorary Parade Marshalls: descendants of Gabriel Godfroy, riding in Eva McGuire's Corvair Flag Car!

Ours is a parade put on by the community for the community. Come down and see the expected and the unexpected: marching bands, Real and tribute Rosie the Riveters, Veterans, made-in-Ypsi Corvairs, dancing, church choirs, vintage vehicles, local politicians, Detroit Tigers mascot PAWS and other surprises. Stay tuned!

Our themes include American Freedoms, American Ingenuity, Immigrants and Community. Live in Ypsi? We invite you to march in your parade! Some of our favorite units in parades past have been neighborhood floats, kids on decorated bikes, drill teams marching with – drills, lol! Get creative and join the celebration! That \$200 prize for the best neighborhood unit will buy a lot of ice cream cones for the participants! Will you join us?

Use this link to sign up: <http://tiny.cc/4ks3101>

This year Centenarian Gordon Cahours, age 106, invites other Centenarians from the 48197-48198 zip codes to ride with him in the parade! If you know someone who qualifies and wants to wave from a cool vintage car (full disclosure, NOT cool in an air-conditioned way!) please text parade Co-Chair Cheryl Farmer at 734-481-1804.



## **Letter from City Council**

*By Patrick McLean, Ward 2 Member of Council*

Happy Spring, Normal Park! There is so much to love about the new season in our community: the gorgeous flowering trees; the smell of lilacs; the scent of chlorine as Rutherford Pool is filled.

While perhaps less fragrant and pleasant, there are two other seasons upon us that are no less important: budget season and campaign season. I want to say a few words about each.

Budget season will largely be wrapped up for 2026-27 by the time you read this. Council is required to complete a budget and submit it to the state by June 7 each year. The most important fact to know is that we continue to run a structural deficit each year, meaning expenditures are greater than revenues, and we've been plugging this hole by tapping the general fund "fund balance" for several years. As a community we'll have to make some difficult decisions about what to prioritize this year and into the coming years.

The other season upon us is campaign season. You don't read this newsletter for your political news, so I'm not going to talk about the major issues and candidates here. And you could be forgiven if you get indigestion just thinking about campaigns, with all their negativity, especially at the national level. But let me suggest something more positive about this season. Campaigns are an opportunity for everyone to engage with those who wish to represent their communities. Ypsilanti is still small enough that door-to-door campaigning still happens and still matters. I hope you'll take the time to engage with those who are running for office, and to make yourself aware of the critical issues that will appear on the August 4 primary ballot and the November 3 general election ballot. Now for something very positive and specific to Normal Park: nearly as many people vote in Normal Park as vote in the entire remainder of the community! Last year in November, when only one issue was on the ballot, nearly half of the Ypsilanti votes in the election came from Normal Park. Give yourselves a pat on the back for your civic participation and please continue to be engaged! If you're really motivated, consider serving on one of the many city commissions that rely on volunteer appointees.

Finally I will mention one more season that isn't far off: fireworks season. When I asked a couple of years ago how people felt about fireworks and whether there were not enough or too many days when fireworks were allowed in Ypsilanti, the response was overwhelming. You told me that, for a range of reasons, there were way too many days with fireworks allowed and you further told me that you would love to have those days reduced. I plan to resurrect my fireworks ordinance to do just that, to reduce the number of days to the state minimum.

(Why the state is in the business of mandating fireworks days in the first place is a sore point for me. I find it outrageous that the state won't let local communities decide for themselves when fireworks are allowed.) I'm still interested in hearing your opinions about this, and I'll be talking about it at my Sunday Coffee Hours.

Enjoy the Spring, participate in the budget debate, and try to keep up the Normal Park tradition of civic engagement! Also, thanks to all the gardeners who make our neighborhood so beautiful.

## **A Visit to Alabama**

*By Lisa Bashert*

My spouse and I had the opportunity to participate in a civil rights mission sponsored by the Jewish Federation & Washtenaw Black Jewish Coalition, this past week. We visited sites important to the struggle in Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma. There, we visited Kelly Ingram Park (where fire hoses and dogs were used to attack Black protesters); the Birmingham 16th Baptist church where four Black girls were killed by a racist bomber (and met with a fifth girl who, as an 10-year-old, survived the bombing); the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma (where Rabbi Abraham Heschel marched for voting rights arm-in-arm with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.); and the Equal Justice Initiative sites in Montgomery, including the Legacy Museum, Sculpture Garden, and Memorial to Peace & Justice (aka the "lynching museum"). We also made short visits to the Rosa Parks Museum, saw various Jewish temples in the three cities, and also met with an activist who survived Bloody Sunday as an 11-year-old girl.

The makeup of our small tour group really heightened the experience. We were a group of 12 that included six Black Americans and six Jewish Americans. They included our Ypsilanti State Rep. Jimmie Wilson, plus a staffer from Sue Shink's office, as well as the head of the Ann Arbor branch of the NAACP, an Ypsilanti pastor & assistant pastor, officers from the Jewish Federation, and three Ypsilanti members of Temple Beth Emeth.

Daily, there were scheduled conversations to share our reflections on these sites and the relationship between Blacks & Jews, historically and in today's fraught climate.

Relationships were built as we got to know each other on the bus, during meals, and in conversations. I came home feeling like I'd made deep connections with these newfound activist friends. Our tour guides from Etgar 36 and the "color commentary" by Prof. Riggins Earl (an activist & schoolmate of John Lewis) helped to deepen my understanding of movement culture and how we can take action today in regard to reconciliation and racial justice.

## WCC & Hinoki Foundation to Offer Japan-Themed Day Camp with Discounts for Ypsi Residents!

By Anne M. Hooghart, Ph.D.

This June, the Future U program at Washtenaw Community College is partnering with Hinoki Foundation (the non-profit for which I have volunteered for the past 12 years) to offer "Konnichi wa Circuits!," a STEAM-focused day camp for youth ages 8-13. The camp will meet from 9:00am to



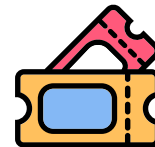
3:00pm Mon.-Fri. the week of June 15-19, with additional weeks possible to accommodate demand. Grant funding keeps the cost reasonable: \$360/week for 30 hours of supervised instruction, including Japanese language, music, crafts, food, and science.

Scholarships are available for residents of Ypsilanti! Visit this link for details/registration: <https://www.wccnet.edu/learn/our-offerings/personal-enrichment/youth.php>

## Ypsilanti House Concert Series

By Diane Zahn

Michelle Held: A 9 Live House Concert  
June 6 at 8PM [doors 7:30]



Detroit's Michelle Held continues the indoor reboot [after 6 years!] of this Ypsilanti house concert series with luminous songs that offer ways back and ways forward to what we need more of in the world. See for yourself at Michelle's website, <https://www.michelleheld.com/>

*Tickets \$20 Cash donation per person at the door*

Location - Normal Park, Ypsilanti - Contact Diane of 9 Live House Concerts @ [damz@sprynet.com](mailto:damz@sprynet.com) for detailed info/directions/house rules and to confirm seating.

Note: If you can't make this show but would like notice for other upcoming 9 Live events, please send a short note to Diane so she can add you to her email distribution for these events.

## Real Estate Update

These homes are currently active as of May 1, 2026:

1221 Congress	\$279,900
933 Pleasant	\$364,900

The following homes have been sold since December 1, 2025:

1307 Congress	\$245,000
118 Linden	\$378,500
7 Oakwood	\$400,000
906 Pleasant	\$365,000
1109 Westmoorland	\$284,900
1218 Westmoorland	\$376,500

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](mailto:dennis@premierchoicerealty.biz), with any real estate questions.



## 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](mailto:president@normalpark.org)

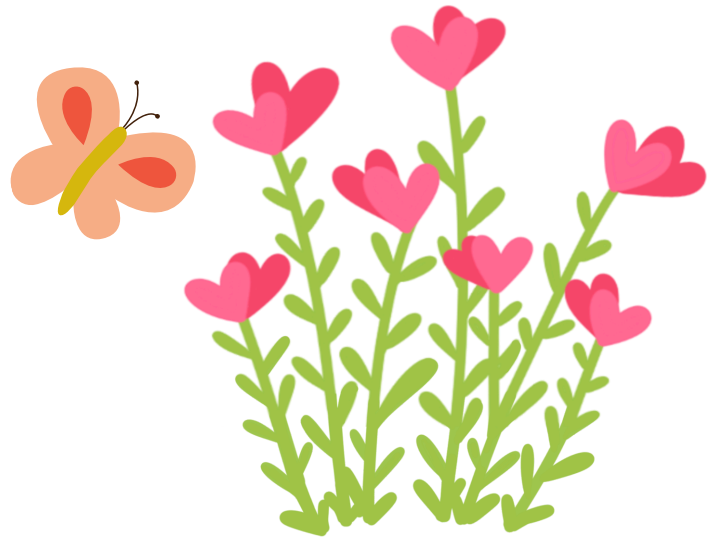
On the web: [www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org)

Current Board Members

President: Dawn Keech  
Vice President: Claudia Pettit  
Secretary: OPEN  
Treasurer: Megan Brown  
Greenscape: David Jeffries  
New Neighbor: Angie Moloney  
Newsletter: Courtenay Tooles  
Stacey Aksman  
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

## Open positions on the board and 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](mailto:president@normalpark.org). We welcome any level of commitment, big or small. (And again, board meetings have great snacks!)



## NPNA Yard Sale

Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 9am to 4pm

To reduce mistakes in transcription and to be more environmentally friendly, the NPNA is moving to an **online registration system** on <https://tinyurl.com/bdhexdph>. 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](http://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 29 to NPNA Yard Sale, c/o Rachel Sprovtsoff at 1121 S Congress. 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 included 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)