



General Meeting Information

Where: Community/Senior Citizen Center Rec Park
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Program: The next general meeting of the NPNA will be held in conjunction with a neighborhood potluck at the Senior Center. Bring your favorite dish to pass and join us in recognizing our veteran neighbors.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Anyone with school-aged children needs no reminder as to what time of year it is! As we say goodbye to another summer, this issue of the newsletter brings you information on the events happening in our neighborhood this autumn and winter, including the fall general meeting (and potluck), the children's Halloween Parade, and the annual Night of Lights. Before we all burrow in for a long winter's nap, come join your neighbors for some fun as the air gets crisper.

NPNA GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

The next NPNA General Meeting will start at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 12 at the Senior/Community Center in Recreation Park. This January's neighborhood potluck was such a huge success and taught us all a valuable lesson: we have a lot of fantastic cooks in this neighborhood! Because of the great turnout for the last potluck, we will be repeating this event with a special addition: in recognition of Veterans Day, the Normal Park Neighborhood Association will be honoring our neighbors who have served in the military during this event.

We invite you to bring your favorite dish to pass. If you don't have time to cook, visit one of our local restaurants or grocery stores for a quick and tasty solution. Drinks, plates, and cutlery will be provided.

If you are a veteran, you are the guest of your neighbors for this event. (Leave your pots and pans in the cupboard!)

We ask for all veterans to identify themselves upon arrival so we can acknowledge everyone with a short welcome.

Great company, wonderful food, and giving thanks? What a warm up to the Thanksgiving holiday. Don't miss it!

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARADE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

On Saturday, October 25 at 4:00 pm, the NPNA is holding our neighborhood annual children's Halloween Parade and party. The parade route will go along Grant to Oakwood, where we will finish at the Senior/Community Center with a party. Last year's parade was a great success, with more than 30 children showing off their costumes before munching on cider and donuts at the Community Center.



All children (and their parents and friends!) are invited to dress in their favorite costume and meet in the front of West Middle School for the parade start. Be sure to bring a noisemaker or instrument with you! (If it is raining hard, we will just meet at the Senior Center for a party.)

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS EVENT EVEN MORE FUN THAN LAST YEAR! Can you provide the following?

- 4-6 families to provide refreshments
- 3-4 people to set up food and serve
- 6-8 people to act as parade monitors/marshalls (gathering at 3.45 pm at West Middle School)
- a small (or large!) group of volunteer musicians to pipe us a jaunty tune to which we can march

This is the fifth year for our annual Halloween Parade, and there are many children who have come each year since the beginning. If there are parents who wish to take the lead in arranging activities for the party for "tweens" in the neighborhood, we want to hear from you!

Volunteers should contact Ayron Smith-Douglas on 482-0553 or Adrienne Meyer on 484-4677.

Most important...**support our neighborhood little ones by lining the parade route to watch them march by!** Thanks for your support!

POOL UPDATE

Thanks to all of the volunteers, the Friends of the Rutherford Pool group, and everyone else who helped to keep our city pool open one more year. The pool closed on Labor Day for the year. The current plan for next year is that the "Friends" will again run the pool as is. We have some repairs that need to occur before we can open.

SIXTH ANNUAL NIGHT OF LIGHTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6



On Saturday, December 6, starting at 6:00 pm, welcome winter with an evening of strolling by luminaries and spending some time with your neighbors during our annual Normal Park Night of Lights Celebration!

As usual, NPNA will be selling luminary kits. Help us decorate our neighborhood for the evening by purchasing a kit or two to line your sidewalk or yard with luminaries. One Luminary Kit contains 10 bags and 10 candles. You will also need sand, gravel or kitty litter to help stabilize the candles inside the bags. The cost is \$5 for 1 kit or \$12 for 3 kits.

A limited number of extra luminary kits will be available at pickup, but we encourage you to pre-order your kits to ensure that you get the number of luminaries you would like.

Luminary Kits pick-up will be at the Community/Senior Center on the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 2 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 3 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

An order form for the Luminary Kits is enclosed in this newsletter and will be available also at the fall meeting.

Please turn your form in to Megan Brown at the meeting or drop it off at 1210 Grant Street no later than November 21.

...Wait! There's more...

It's not just the lights that give us all a glow on this special evening...it's also the warmth we get from visiting the Cider Stops along the way! **The NPNA is looking for people who want to set up Cider Stops.** Cider Stops can be as simple as a card table with hot drinks to share or as elaborate as your imagination (and budget) can stretch! Be creative! The goal is to have as many stops as possible in order to gather together with our neighbors for warm refreshments and company. Simply let us know that you are planning to set up a Cider Stop (with your name and address) by sending an email to president@normalpark.org, so the NPNA can put together a list before the event.



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

Beth Bashert
Sales & Leasing Consultant

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YOUR NPNA DUES AT WORK

Once a year we ask for modest dues from the Normal Park families - just \$10 annual dues per household. Your dues, along with the proceeds from our annual yard sale registrations, make it possible for the NPNA to hold four quarterly meetings, neighborhood informational meetings, pot lucks, and the ice cream social; run the annual children's Halloween parade and the Night of Lights; print and distribute this newsletter and info flyers; support the NPNA website (www.normalpark.org)...and more!

In addition, NPNA supports a variety of community efforts that impact our neighborhood and the city of Ypsilanti, such as flowers and garden supplies for Ypsi PRIDE Day, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Historical Home Tour, Friends of Rutherford Pool, support for the Senior Center and the Community Garden, and participation in the city-wide CoPac picnic.

You can give your dues directly to Megan Brown, NPNA Treasurer, at the fall meeting, or you can drop them off to her at 1210 Grant. **Please help support your neighborhood!**

REPORT ON THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The annual Normal Park Ice Cream Social was held on August 6, 2008. It was a great event and well attended. About 100 people came out to enjoy ice cream and Italian ice with their neighbors. We would like to thank neighbors Claudia Pettit and Ayrton Smith-Douglas for helping out with the event.

Special thanks go to Café Luwak and Icescapes, two local businesses, which offered product and manpower for the event. Café Luwak owner Jim Karnopp assisted with the cost of ice cream and sundae fixings, and his son Forrest scooped the tasty treats. Icescapes also assisted with the cost of the Italian ice which offered a great alternative to just ice cream on a hot day.

Café Luwak is located in Depot Town, and it is a great place to have a specialty sandwich topped off with your favorite ice cream. Icescapes is a drive-through ice cream and Italian ice store located on Washtenaw Ave, open March through October and a great idea for a hot summer day...or any day! Please consider these businesses when you are out and about in the community. We appreciate their generosity and their commitment to the local community. (Editor's note: I highly recommend the #25 "Heartbreak" sandwich at Café Luwak, followed by a mango ice/vanilla ice cream Stratoscape at Icescapes!)

Amy Strutz
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A WORD FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

Did you know...

- That the successful partnership between the University of Michigan and Ypsilanti Public Schools was the subject of a presentation at the National Science Teachers Association symposium in Boston, 2008?
- That Adams elementary school has been restructured and is now the Adams Science Technology Engineering Math Academy and is supported in this process by the U-M College of Engineering?
- Graduates from the class of 2008 headed off this fall to some of the nation's most prestigious colleges including Yale, University of Texas, University of Michigan, and Hampton University, just to name a few?
- That Ypsilanti High School students can enroll in the Eastern Michigan University Early College Alliance and earn up to 60 college credits while in high school?
- That Estabrook Elementary is a Michigan Blue Ribbon School putting it in an elite group of state schools that have garnered the honor?

To learn more about Ypsilanti Public Schools visit www.ypsd.org or call Emma Jackson (734) 714-1202.

UPDATE FROM THE NPNA BOARD

The NPNA board is a group of area residents who volunteer their time to plan and run the activities we talk about in this newsletter. Over the past year, a few new faces have joined the group.

Claudia Pettit is vice-president of the board, and she and Christine Moellering are NPNA's representatives to CoPAC. CoPAC is the Community Policing Action Council, which unites the neighborhoods of Ypsilanti through a council composed of representatives of neighborhood associations, the Ypsilanti Police Department, the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce, EMU and other groups like business associations. It is a federation of associations, dedicated to community government that pro-actively addresses issues and concerns. Normal Park Neighborhood Association is a charter member of CoPAC. Claudia and Christine advise that if residents have questions or concerns regarding the safety and security of our neighborhood, Zach Allen and Brad Compton are our two community neighborhood liaison officers.

Other recent additions to the board include:

- Megan Brown is our new treasurer, and she is busy ensuring that all of the NPNA paperwork is up to date and our money is being spent sensibly. She is the recipient for dues (1210 Grant).
- Mark Mollering as our new webmaster. Watch for updates to our website soon!
- Adrienne Meyer as our new newsletter editor. Contact Adrienne if you're interested in contributing

an article for a future issue or if you would like more information on advertising.

- Jessica Faul and Sarah Devaney are our newest Greenscape co-chairs. The greenscapes are in the public medians (such as on Wallace) and corners in the area. When you see these areas planted with lovely flowers and plants, you have a dedicated group of residents to thank!

The strength of the NPNA lies not only in those who are just getting involved, but of course also those who have been involved for a long time, making our neighborhood a fun and lively place to reside. Lisa Bashert is the NPNA contact for our Community Gardens, and Rebecca Dunkle and Joe Capuano support the board as at-large members. Sean Stidd remains the board's fearless leader as our president...and new neighbor welcome chair! If you are new to the neighborhood, contact Sean on president@normalpark.org to obtain a welcome kit full of goodies!

Finally, planning is starting for our 2009 events! Want to get involved in running one of our annual events, such as the ice cream social, or have a great idea for a new activity? Join the NPNA board! Contact Sean Stidd for details on how you can volunteer.

THE SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER

Normal Park neighbors have a number of opportunities to use the Senior/Community Center, right here in Recreation Park. The Center is open for senior programming Monday through Friday from 10 am - 2 pm, with a variety of mostly free classes and events. Exercise classes three days a week, plus beginning and intermediate Tai Chi, Line Dancing, and Yoga twice a week (and water aerobics at Rutherford Pool in the summer). A low-cost, nutritious lunch is offered every day, plus weekly Spanish class, Bingo, Cooking classes, Gardening, and Wii computer games, among other activities. Although these activities cater to ages 55 and up, all ages are welcome to most activities. A recent grant from Target will support an "Art in the Park" series of art workshops and performances open to all ages.

Neighbors of any age will be interested in the Norwegian massage therapy every Friday and Saturday by appointment. The Center is also available for private rentals for \$40/hour. (There is a full commercial kitchen, and seating for 100 people, with maximum capacity 175). Community groups can use the Center once a month for free. Contact director Monica Prince on 483-5014 or on seniorcenter@umich.edu.

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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

1305 N Congress	\$ 85,000
1240 W Cross	\$ 89,900
906 Grant	\$ 90,000
1208 Grant	\$ 99,000
9 Wallace	\$ 99,800
1304 N Congress	\$104,900
923 W Cross	\$115,000
350 S Mansfield	\$110,000
1306 N Congress	\$119,900
1207 W Cross	\$119,900
1207 Grant	\$139,900
907 Pearl	\$149,900
1120 Grant	\$150,000
1215 Pearl	\$157,900
106 Mansfield	\$159,900
907 Grant	\$159,900
1101 W Cross	\$165,000
1123 Pearl	\$174,900
1228 Westmoorland	\$174,900
312 N Wallace	\$174,900
110 N Wallace	\$175,000
915 Sherman Ct	\$179,900
915 N Congress	\$187,800
107 Elm	\$198,500
1107 W Cross	\$209,000
935 Pearl	\$239,000

The following homes have recently sold:

1124 Pearl	\$115,000
1314 Congress	\$120,000
1109 Westmoorland	\$132,000
916 Pearl	\$135,000
1118 Grant	\$152,500
1209 Sherman	\$180,000
96 Oakwood	\$199,000

Elisa Guyton, a NPNA resident and buyer's agent for Trillium Real Estate, provided the above information. Please do not hesitate to contact her at (734) 476-5432 or elisa@trilliumrealtors.com with all your real estate questions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- **Downtown Halloween Fall Festival** Oct 24
Downtown from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- **General Election** Nov 4
Polls are open 7:00 am – 8:00 pm
- **NPNA General Meeting** Nov 12
Community Center, Rec Park, 6:00 pm
- **Shadow Art Fair** Dec 6
Corner Brewery, 12:00 pm – 12:00 am
- **Normal Park Night of Lights** Dec 6
Normal Park Neighborhood, 6:00 pm
- **Heritage Holidays & Holiday Home Tour** Dec 6-7
Ypsilanti
- **New Year Jubilee** Dec 31

2008 BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS

President:	Sean Stidd	483-8301
Vice President:	Claudia Pettit	
Secretary:	Open	
Treasurer:	Megan Brown	482-2181
CoPAC:	Claudia Pettit	
	Christine Moellering	482-7179
Greenscape Co-Chairs:	Jessica Faul	483-4690
	Sarah Devaney	480-9018
Social Chair:	Open	
New Neighbor:	Sean Stidd	483-8301
Newsletter:	Adrienne Meyer	484-4677
Website:	Mark Moellering	482-7179
Community Garden:	Lisa Bashert	483-6420
At-large members:	Rebecca Dunkle	482-9330
	Joe Capuano	483 -6091

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 a board member.

NO LEAVES IN THE STREET!

Ypsilanti has traditionally offered two leaf pickups each autumn throughout the city. These have been reduced to one pickup effective last year, due to the City's budget cuts. Pick-up dates for each neighborhood are announced on the city website and via signs in the neighborhood, and sometimes through flyers or mailers. Residents should rake leaves for pickup onto the margin or along the curb, but NOT into the street itself. This has always been the rule, but many people raked into the street anyway, and the large piles of leaves make a real mess and are hazardous -- not only is there a risk of car fires, but the leaves clog the street drains and sewers. Council is considering an ordinance which would levy a stiff fine against people who rake their leaves in the street.

Residents always have the option of raking leaves and bagging them or putting them in yard waste cans. Weekly curbside pick-up services for contained yard waste (including leaves and grass clippings) will now be extended until late December. Please place waste material in either a brown, paper compost bag or trash container no larger than 32 gallons for pick-up on trash day. Please see www.cityofypsilanti.com for more information.

ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER

The NPNA newsletter is printed 2-3 times a year and reaches over 800 households in Ypsilanti. A business card sized ad is only \$30 per issue or \$100 for 4 issues. In addition to dues and the annual yard sale advertisements are a key way to fund the printing of this newsletter. Interested in advertising in the newsletter? Contact Adrienne Meyer on 484-4677.

WEBSITE AND EMAIL NEWS

Keep up to date on the latest information and events happening in our neighborhood and city. Visit our website at www.normalpark.org! Also, don't forget to sign up for the NPNA Email News to get the latest via email. To sign up, send your email address to listserv@normalpark.org.