



newsletter of normal park neighborhood association

npna

www.normalpark.org

autumn 2009

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. 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, potlucks, and the ice cream social; print and distribute this newsletter and info flyers; support the NPNA website (www.normalpark.org); run the annual children's Halloween parade and the Night of Lights...and more!

Meet and Have Fun!

The next general meeting of the NPNA will be:

Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 7.00pm

Join us for dessert! The next meeting of the NPNA will feature a meet-and-greet with the new Ypsilanti Public Schools Superintendent, Dedrick Martin, and Ypsilanti's interim Police Chief, Paul DeRidder. There will also be a presentation on the upcoming regional enhancement millage. We will provide dessert and drinks.

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NPNA Upcoming Events (October)

NPNA General Meeting

Thursday, October 22 starting at 7.00 pm

Join us at the next general meeting of the NPNA. We will gather at the Community/Senior Center at Recreation Park for a meet-and-greet with the school superintendent and interim police chief, plus we will hear a presentation on the upcoming regional enhancement millage levied by the Washtenaw Intermediate School District on behalf of the County's ten public school districts. Dessert will be provided by the NPNA.

Children's Halloween Parade

Saturday, October 31 at 3.00 pm

Who loves a parade?! On the day of Halloween itself, the NPNA is holding our neighborhood's annual children's Halloween Parade and party. The parade route starts in front of West Middle School, and will go along Grant and Pearl to Oakwood, where we will finish at the Senior/Community Center with a party. The parade time has been chosen to allow kids to get into costume for the parade, enjoy the parade and party, and then have enough time afterwards to go home and get ready for Trick-or-Treat.



All children and children at heart are invited to dress in costume and meet in front of West Middle School at 2.50 pm. The Ypsilanti High School Marching Band will once again lead the parade! If it is raining hard, we will just meet at the Senior Center for a party.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS YEAR THE BEST PARADE YET! Can you provide the following?

- Cider — we need about 10 gallons total
- Cookies, muffins, or other bite-sized snacks
- Help setting up the center, starting at 12.00 pm
- Help cleaning up afterwards
- Help designing fun activities during the party, especially for the "tweens" of our neighborhood!

If so, please email Adrienne Meyer on adrienneandwarwick@hotmail.com or call 484-4677.

Most important, **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S LITTLE ONES BY COMING OUT TO WATCH THE PARADE!** Last year, we had over 40 children take part. Come outside, cheer them on, and enjoy the band. Thanks for your support!

NPNA Upcoming Events (December)

Night of Lights

Sunday, December 13 from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm

Held annually in Normal Park, Night of Lights is an evening of strolling, caroling, and welcoming in the start of winter. Houses throughout the neighborhood set out candle luminaries, and it's a great opportunity to visit with neighbors before winter truly sets in.

New this year, there will be only one official "cider stop," organized centrally at the Senior/Community Center, which will be open from 5.00 to 8.00 pm. The cider stop is a place to gather over hot cider and treats with neighbors. If you would like to donate a dessert to share, please drop off the dessert at 5.00 pm at the center.

The NPNA will be selling luminary kits at the cost of \$5 for one kit or \$12 for three kits. Kits include 10 luminary bags and 10 candles. (You will need to provide sand, gravel, or kitty litter to help stabilize the candles inside the bags.) There is an order form in this newsletter for kits. The NPNA will give complimentary luminary kits to houses along Oakwood!

News from our Local Schools

Normal Park residents have likely noticed (and heard) the construction work that took place over the summer at West Middle School and Chapelle Community School. In addition to these buildings, renovation work was completed at East Middle, Adams Academy and Erickson Elementary. Over 4.7 million dollars of technology and construction was completed in July alone, which equates to building a \$156,000 home everyday for a month! Pretty amazing how quickly the work crews launched the bond project in June and completed their work in time for the first day of school, Sept. 10. Students and staff will have access to the latest technology, including Mac computers and interactive boards, enjoyed in an updated environment that has energy efficient lighting and heating and cooling systems along with many other physical upgrades. YPS is pleased with Phase II of the bond work, and we appreciate our supporters and invite residents to visit our schools.

Emma Jackson
714-1202

Beth Bashert
Sales & Leasing Consultant

(734) 997-7600
(734) 997-9213 Fax



TOYOTA



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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
www.dunningtoyota.com
www.dunningscion.com
bbashert.dunningtoyota@gs.reyrey.com

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

News from the Community

Rutherford Pool

Rutherford Pool finished the fickle weather summer off with the Dog Splash! Numerous dogs were in the pool with more just running around the pool deck. Over \$100 was collected for the Humane Society of Washtenaw County. While the weather didn't always cooperate this summer, the pool was still able to provide a safe, fun place for over 11,000 swimmers during the 78 days that we were able to be open. On average, there were 143 visits a day. The staff would like to thank those who brought goodies to them and for your patience during the week and a half that we could not be open due to the pump motor breaking.

A few people have gathered together to investigate if it is possible to fund raise for a new pool. A consultant with a pool company came out and took a rough look at the pool, pro bono. In his best guess (not knowing exact measurements) he thought that it might be around \$100,000 to replace the liner and another \$600,000 in mechanical, pool deck and misc stuff. So, we are close to that \$1,000,000 we were projecting before. It is not advisable to just replace the liner.

Please watch for community meetings and more information to come out about the pool. No decision has been made about next year. As usual, we sometimes have to see how it fares over the winter. Thank you for your support of this great community asset.

Cathy Thorburn
485-9457

Art in the Park

Saturday, November 14 from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Start your holiday shopping! Up to 40 independent artists and craftspeople will be selling their wares at the first annual Art in the Park fundraiser for the Ypsilanti Senior/Community Center on Saturday, November 14 from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Free children's art activities, and a variety of refreshments available. Proceeds from booth fees and food sales will benefit the Ypsilanti Senior/Community center, which raises almost all of its operating expenses through fundraisers, grants and private donations.



Tamara Meyer, Independent Consultant

734-483-9243 OR 734-476-1187

www.pamperedchef.biz/tamarameyer

tamarameyr@comcast.net

News from the Community

Loose leaves...and what to do with them!

Leaves piled in the street are one of the leading causes of street flooding due to clogged storm drains, and leaves in the gutter pan can cause damage to the street sweeper and, if left in the street, create problems with snow removal. Therefore, on May 19, 2009, city council approved a resolution to eliminate the collection of bulk loose leaves. Leaves contained in compost bags or trash cans 32 gallons or smaller with a yard waste sticker placed on trash container will be picked up curbside. Curbside yard waste will be picked up on your trash day through the week of December 14, 2009. Leaves that are frozen in cans cannot be removed.

Alternatively, leaves can be mulched into yards, which can help your lawn if done correctly. Want to learn more? On Saturday, Oct. 31, Paul Shemon of downtown Ypsilanti's *Congdon's ACE Hardware* will demonstrate leaf mulching techniques at Prospect Park at 3.00 pm. One lucky Ypsilanti City resident will win the grand door prize: a mower donated by ACE Hardware. (Must be present to win.) ACE will provide other door prizes to City residents in attendance after the grand prize mower is given away.

Talk of the Neighborhood

Talk of the Neighborhood is a new series of programs that run every Monday and Wednesday at 7.15 pm at the Senior/Community Center at 1015 N Congress. The programs run year round, and a schedule of programs can be found on <http://sites.google.com/site/talkypsilanti> or in the distribution box outside the door of the Center. The cost is \$5 per program, payable at the door.

Thanks!

The NPNA held its annual Ice Cream Social at the beginning of August, on a perfect summer evening, drawing over 100 neighbors to the event. Once again, many thanks go to Café Luwak for its generous donation of ice cream, including a big thanks to Forrest Karnopp for wielding the ice cream scooper! Be sure to check out Café Luwak's new weekend breakfast buffet, running on Saturdays and Sundays from 8.00 am to 1.00 pm. They're in Depot Town. If you learned about the ice cream social by driving by one of the colorful new signs advertising the event, you were admiring the artwork of Joyce Fraker and the woodworking of Warwick Anderson. A big thanks to them both!

Amy Strutz
Cell: 368-6945

A J Leo Electric

8 N. Mansfield St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

AJLeo@SBCGlobal.Net

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Habitat for Humanity House

You may have noticed a house being renovated for Habitat for Humanity on South Congress Street. NPNA talked to Sarah Stanton, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley, to learn about the project and what it means for the Normal Park neighborhood.

Habitat for Humanity International defines itself as a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization building simple, decent, affordable housing in partnership with people in need. Volunteers and partner families provide most of the labor, and individual and corporate donors provide money and materials to build Habitat for Humanity houses. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and with no interest charged, and mortgage payments are used to build more houses. To qualify for a Habitat home in Washtenaw County, applicant families must be able to make a down payment of \$500, contribute 300 hours per adult family member of "sweat equity" (volunteer time) into their house or another Habitat house, and make payments on a 25-year, interest-free mortgage administered by Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley. Stanton states that families who qualify often work in the service, education, or home care fields that our community depends upon, and therefore do not have the level of income to save enough for a typical 20% down payment for a home. However, because they are required to have the income to be able to make the mortgage payments, are selected through a careful screening process, are required to take home ownership and financial management classes, and contribute so much of their time in building their home, Habitat home owners are set up to succeed and be great homeowners and neighbors.

Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley has built 83 homes to date throughout Washtenaw County since its inception in 1990. The recent drop in housing prices has provided Habitat with an opportunity to shift from building new homes to "gut rehabbing" existing houses that are in foreclosure. Not only does this allow Habitat to save costs, Habitat believes that this contributes to the stabilization and growth of a neighborhood through the investment made in improving an already-foreclosed property. The "Good News House," as it's called, on Congress Street has been rehabbed from the studs up to be energy efficient, and has had a second floor added. Stanton said that Habitat worked to obtain this particular house in part because of the popularity of the Normal Park neighborhood — as she stated, "we build houses where people want to live, and people want to live in Normal Park."

With the house moving toward completion, a family has been selected from the pool of applicants, and Stanton said that they are hoping to move in before the end of the year. Join us in welcoming the Yates family to Normal Park as some of our newest neighbors!

Getting in Your Neighbor's Business

Supporting businesses in the community in which you live has always been an important way to ensure your community thrives. Need a service or looking for a great place to find that special something? Check out these businesses owned and run by your neighbors, and keep our community growing!

Corner Brewery

Matt & Rene Greff (Grant Street)

Matt & Rene opened the Arbor Brewing Company in Ann Arbor in 1995 and the Corner Brewery in Ypsi in 2006. Corner produces and packages bottles and kegs of Arbor Brewing Company brand beers for distribution throughout the state. It also has a spacious bar, lounge and beergarden and has become a favorite local hangout for neighbors, organizations, and non-profits. Corner offers a small selection of food – focused around locally sourced sustainably grown options. Come visit at 720 Norris Street and learn more on www.cornerbrewery.com (phone 734-480-2739).

Pampered Chef

Tamara Meyer, Independent Consultant (Mansfield Road)

Have you heard of The Pampered Chef and its high quality cooking and kitchen products? Tamara offers in-home Cooking Shows, where guests can see and try products, prepare and sample recipes, and learn quick and easy food preparation techniques and tips on how to entertain with style and ease — transforming the simple to the spectacular. If you'd like to learn more about hosting a show, starting your own business, or if you would like to place an order, call Tamara on 734-483-9243 or 734-476-1187 or visit www.pamperedchef.biz/tamarameyer.

Kaleidoscope Educational Services LLC

Jeff Brown, Owner & Tutor (Grant Street)

Kaleidoscope offers experienced tutoring for children and adults from elementary to college, specializing in Liberal Arts subjects including Literature, English, Grammar, Reading, Writing, History and Political Science. Tutoring services available evenings and weekends either at your home or at the Ypsilanti Public Library. Jeff is a former teacher with over 10 years experience helping children and adults love learning. Contact him on 734-717-3160 or visit his website on <http://kaleidoscopeeducationalservices.blogspot.com/>

The Queen of Hearts Pastries

Terry Morrow (Wallace Street)

The Queen of Hearts at 32 East Cross in Depot Town makes delicious cakes for all occasions, from weddings to graduations. Their cakes and pastries are all made from scratch in their Depot Town shop. All cakes and pastries are made by special order. Check out our website for pictures and flavors on www.queenofheartspastries.com or call 734-487-9223.

Complete Chiropractic & Bodywork Therapies

Kathleen Dvorak, D.C. (Pleasant Drive) and Kirsten Mowrey, Massage Therapist (Oakwood Street) Complete Chiropractic & Bodywork Therapies offers quality health care to family members of all ages, from acute care to chronic pain management, and bill insurance as able. They network with local doctors and hospitals to support you on your journey to health and well being. Visit them on the web at www.ccbtherapies.com or call 734-677-1900. They are located at 2020 Hogback Rd., Ste. 7, Ann Arbor.

Trillium Real Estate

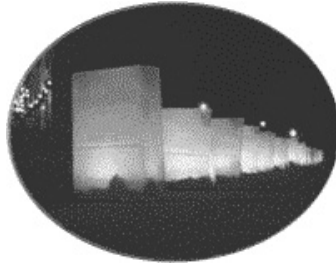
Elisa Guyton, Real Estate Agent (Westmoorland Street) Trillium Real Estate, located in Kerrytown at 323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor, is committed to helping you make good real estate decisions. They feature many skills, including, but not limited to, local area expertise, first time home buying specialists, home marketing professionals, senior housing consultants, accredited buyer representatives, architectural historian and old house specialist. Visit them on the web at www.trilliumrealtors.com or for superior real estate experience, contact Elisa at Trillium Real Estate 476-5432.

Live in Normal Park and want to highlight your own Ypsilanti business in the next issue? Contact Adrienne Meyer on 734-484-4677 to find out how to submit your listing.

Advertise in this 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? Call Adrienne Meyer on 734-484-4677.





NPNA Night of Lights Luminary Order Form

Sunday, December 13 from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm

Welcome winter with an evening of strolling by luminaries and spending some time with your neighbors!

The NPNA will be selling luminary kits for our annual Night of Lights celebration. Decorate our neighborhood for the evening by purchasing a kit or two to line your sidewalk or yard. Proceeds from the kits will go to supporting the evening's Cider Stop at the Senior/Community Center on Congress.

The cost of the kits is \$5 for one kit or \$12 for three kits. Kits include 10 luminary bags and 10 candles. (You will need to provide sand, gravel, or kitty litter to help stabilize the candles inside the bags.)
The NPNA will give complimentary luminary kits to houses along Oakwood!

Send this registration form in by **Friday, December 4** by mailing or dropping it off to NPNA Night of Lights, c/o Megan Brown at 1210 Grant Street. Checks should be made payable to NPNA.

Luminary kits will be available for pick up at the Senior/Community Center the week before the event. You will be contacted by email or phone with more information on when to pick them up from the Senior Center.

Complete and send this form to NPNA Night of Lights, c/o Megan Brown at 1210 Grant Street by December 4. Checks should be made payable to NPNA.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

One luminary kit: \$5.00 x _____ = _____

Set of three kit: \$12.00 x _____ = _____

**YES, I am enclosing an additional \$10
for NPNA dues for my household! (\$10)** _____

TOTAL _____

Real Estate Update

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

9 Wallace	\$ 84,500
1115 Grant	\$124,900
1301 W Cross	\$129,900
1303 W Cross	\$139,800
1306 S Congress	\$139,900
1213 Westmoorland	\$139,900
212 Oakwood	\$144,900
1219 Grant	\$149,800
1105 Pearl	\$161,500
201 Oakwood	\$179,900
1222 Sherman	\$190,000
1208 N Congress	\$199,000

The following homes have recently sold:

1210 Congress	Pending
1101 Sherman	\$ 50,000
962 Sheridan	\$ 51,000
923 W. Cross	\$ 59,000
315 Hiawatha	\$ 95,000
1123 Pearl	\$149,250
1006 W Cross	\$151,500

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.

Senior/Community Center Rentals

Did you know you could rent the Senior/Community Center for your party, meeting, or other special event? Just \$40/hour includes a fully licensed kitchen piano and seating for 100-175 guests. Call 483-5014 for more information.

Humor for Health, LLC



Paddy Ash
Stand-Up Comedienne
(734) 482-7366
paddy@comedian.com

Available for Corporate and Private Events

Get Involved on the NPNA Board!

The NPNA is looking for a neighbor who is interested in serving as the Secretary on the Board. Responsibilities involve writing up a record of the quarterly meetings of the Board, and contributing your opinion on NPNA programs. Interested? Contact Sean Stidd on 483-8304.

Mark your Calendar



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

- **NPNA General Meeting** Oct 22
Community/Senior Center, 7.00 pm, dessert
- **Ypsilanti Halloween Festival** Oct 30
Downtown, 5.00 pm
- **NPNA Children's Halloween Parade** Oct 31
Start at West Middle School, 3.00 pm
- **Art in the Park** Nov 14
Community/Senior Center, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
- **Holiday Home Tour** Dec 5-6
Ypsilanti, citywide
- **Shadow Art Fair** Dec 5
Corner Brewery, 12.00 pm to midnight
- **NPNA Night of Lights** Dec 13
5.00 pm to 8.00 pm

Contact the NPNA Board

President:	Sean Stidd	483-8301
Vice President:	Claudia Pettit	480-2714
Secretary:	Open	
Treasurer:	Megan Brown	482-2181
CoPAC:	Claudia Pettit	480-2714
	Christine Moellering	482-7179
Greenscape:	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
	Dawn Keech	961-7167

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.

Normal Park on the Web

Visit our website at www.normalpark.org and keep up to date on the latest information and events happening in our neighborhood and city!

Sign up for the NPNA email news to get the latest via email. Emails are sent on a wide range of topics, including requests from neighbors for advice or services, updates from Ypsilanti government or police, or events in the area. To sign up, send your email address to listserv@normalpark.org.



Are you on **Facebook**? Search for the Normal Park Neighborhood Association and join our community online!