



newsletter of normal park neighborhood association

# npna

www.normalpark.org

spring 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](http://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:

**Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 5.00pm**

Theme: Potluck! Walk down to the Senior Center with your favorite main course, appetizer, or dessert, and enjoy the lovely weather and blooming flowers with your neighbors. Let's welcome in the great weather together!



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## Upcoming Events (April & May)

### NPNA General Meeting

**Sunday, April 26 starting at 5.00 pm**

Join us at the next general meeting of the NPNA. We will gather at the Community/Senior Center at Recreation Park for a neighborhood potluck!

### Ypsilanti PRIDE

**Saturday, May 16 starting at 9.00 am**

The Ypsilanti Area Jaycees and the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Ypsilanti PRIDE (*People Restoring Image and Developing the Environment*) Day. Each spring, hundreds of volunteers from across the community join together for a morning of cleaning and beautifying public areas, followed by a celebration in Riverside Park. This year's Ypsilanti PRIDE event takes place on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 9.00am until noon (rain or shine). The celebration for volunteers follows from noon to 2.00pm.



Activities will take place across the city, including in our Normal Park neighborhood. Help tidy Recreation Park and our adjacent parks, spruce up the Senior Center and Rutherford Pool, prepare the Community Garden and Rose Garden, and plant and mulch the landscape end-caps in our medians and curbsides. Bring gloves with you and any other appropriate gardening tools for garden work, trash bags for trash cleanup, and be dressed appropriately!

Volunteer as a local Site Captain by calling Sarah Weiss on 734-480-1823. Volunteers will be gathering at Recreation Park, West Middle School Community Gardens, and Hefley Park. Children are welcome to help with projects such as cleaning up the parks.

For more information about the event in general, to register as a volunteer, to make a donation, or to suggest a clean-up site, visit [www.ypsipride.org](http://www.ypsipride.org) or contact Katie Jones at the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce on 734-482-4920, ext. 21. New this year, the Ypsi PRIDE team will recognize those making a special effort to help keep Ypsilanti looking good all year with the "PRIDE in Ypsilanti" award. To nominate an outstanding youth, adult, or business for this recognition, please visit the website and fill out the nomination form. The awards will be presented at the celebration in Riverside Park.

The success of the event is a result of the time and hard work donated by volunteers, and the supplies and funding donated by local business partners. Help make a big difference in our community in just three short hours!

## Upcoming Events (June - August)

### 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 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.

A \$10 registration fee will get your home included on a neighborhood map with descriptions of your items for sale. For a \$30 registration fee, you can place an ad along the boundary of the map. (Ads do not necessarily have to be regarding the yard 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.

A registration form is on page 5 of this newsletter. Send your registration form in by **Friday, May 29** by mailing or dropping it off to NPNA Yard Sale, c/o **Megan Brown** at 1210 Grant Street. Checks should be made payable to **NPNA**.

### NPNA Annual Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, August 5 starting at 6.00 pm

On Wednesday, August 5, the NPNA is holding our annual Ice Cream Social in the Rose Garden behind the Community/Senior Center in Recreation Park. Every August our neighborhood gathers together for this special event to enjoy each other's company...and ice cream! If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Claudia Pettit on 480-2714.



## News from our Local Schools

### Elementary Open Houses

Parents of incoming first graders are invited to the YPS Spring Elementary Open Houses. These events are primarily for students making the transition from kindergarten to first grade; however, all students who are new to the district are invited to attend these informal gatherings. Staff will be on hand to provide tours, answer questions and to welcome students to the building. All open houses will begin at 6.30 pm on the following dates:

Estabrook Elementary  
1555 W. Cross St.  
Thursday, April 16

Chapelle Community  
111 S. Wallace St.  
Tuesday, April 21

Adams STEM Academy  
503 Oak St.  
Thursday, April 23

Erickson Elementary  
1427 Levona St.  
Thursday, April 30

### Registration Packets Now Available

Perry CDC registration packets are now available for students who will be kindergartners in the fall. Appointments are being scheduled for May 4-8 and May 18-20. For more information or to enroll your child, please call the Perry office at 734-714-1750.

### Visit from the State Superintendent

State Superintendent Michael Flanagan will visit Ypsilanti Public Schools on Tuesday, April 21. He will tour several of the buildings, including Michigan Blue Ribbon School, Estabrook Elementary. This is a wonderful opportunity for the district to showcase the many innovative programs and partnerships that are in place, and it is an honor to be singled out for one of the few district visits that Mr. Flanagan schedules annually.

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

## 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, and the challenges of today's economy make this even more critical. Therefore, we are beginning a new feature in this newsletter to spotlight our Normal Park neighbors who own businesses in Ypsilanti. Need a service or looking for a great place to find that special something? Check here, support your neighbors, and keep our community growing!

### **Nelson Amos Studio**

Owned by Nelson Amos and Korin Hancherlian-Amos (Sherman St.)

Nelson Amos, a local artist and musician, and Korin Hancherlian-Amos operate the Nelson Amos Studio at 23 E. Cross Street in Depot Town. The studio offers Nelson's portraits and landscapes, custom framing, artwork on commission, and provides notecards, shirts, magnets and more. In addition to running the studio, Nelson is a professor of music at Eastern Michigan, and Korin is a piano teacher. For more information, visit <http://nelsonamosstudio.com> or call 734-484-2787.

### **Urban Pioneer**

Owned by Erica Choberka (Congress St.)

Urban Pioneer provides garden and landscape design, implementation, maintenance, and coaching. Erica specializes in organic gardens (vegetable, herb, medicinal, tea, butterfly/hummingbird, edible flower), ecological landscapes (native plant landscaping, habitat restoration, rain gardens, woodland, and prairies), general garden improvement, and species inventory of your property (learn what is poisonous/edible/native/invasive). For more information, contact Erica on 734-395-3405 or via email on [ericachoberka@yahoo.com](mailto:ericachoberka@yahoo.com).

### **Root & Branch**

Owned by Rachel Sprovtsoff-Mangus (S. Congress St.)

Root & Branch is a communication consulting business, providing writing, editing (academic papers, articles, web content), web design, marketing/PR materials and all the stuff in between. For more information, call Rachel on 734-771-7971 or visit [www.root-and-branch.org](http://www.root-and-branch.org).

### **Stamos Travel**

Owned by the Stamos family (including dad Nick and his son Sam on Owendale St.)

Stamos Travel is fully appointed travel company. Established over 30 years ago, it has been owned and operated continuously by the Stamos family. Stamos Travel has provides airline tickets, cruises worldwide, resort vacations, fast breaking specials, student travel breaks, sports tours, and special events travel for individuals and groups. Sam Stamos also is a QuickBooks Pro Advisor. For more information, contact Nick or Sam on 734-483-5040 or visit [www.stamostravel.com](http://www.stamostravel.com).

### **The Ugly Mug Café and Roastery**

Owned by the Rye family (Melody, Jim, and Zak on Wallace St.)

The Ugly Mug Cafe and Roastery at 318 W. Cross provides house-roasted beans and coffees, plus all of your favorite drinks, bagels, pastries, sandwiches, and homemade soups. In its 5<sup>th</sup> year of business, the Ugly Mug is smoke-free environment with a large selection of used books for trade, local art, and knowledgeable and passionate baristas who have competed on both a regional and national level. For more information, contact Melody on 734-484-4684 or just stop in.

### **Chef Kate Personal Chef Service**

Owner/Chef Kate Jackman (Oakwood)

Chef Kate is a personal chef service, providing delicious meals for busy people in their home kitchens since 2001. Kate will shop, cook, and clean up -- all you do is enjoy! For more information, call her on 734-276-7245 or visit her website at [www.chefkate.com](http://www.chefkate.com).

### **Top Flite Financial Inc.**

Owned by Jeff Guyton (Westmoorland St)

Top Flite Financial offers a full spectrum of mortgage products (Conventional, FHA, VA, Construction and Reverse mortgage financing). More important, Jeff offers many years of experience in the industry and the stability that comes from sound judgment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please visit [www.topflitefinancial.com/guyton](http://www.topflitefinancial.com/guyton) or call Jeff on 734-418-3280.

**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.

## Recipes for Local Eating

by Lisa Bashert and Sean Stidd

The growing season is coming, and with it comes lots of opportunities to eat and cook closer to home. We thought we'd share a couple of local winners with you, and encourage you to send in your own recipes using local ingredients for future issues.

Sean takes advantage of our endless fall-winter supply of dried cherries to make these muffins, inspired by *The Tassajara Bread Book*:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon allspice
- ¼ teaspoon each nutmeg, ginger, and salt
- 1 egg from the Ypsi farmer's market, beaten
- ¼ cup melted Calder butter
- ¼ cup local Michigan honey
- ¾ cup orange juice
- ¾ cup milk from Calder or Guernsey
- 1 cup dried Michigan cherries

Combine the dry ingredients, except the cherries. In a separate bowl combine the wet ingredients and then fold together with dry. Mix in the cherries. Spoon into greased muffin tin and bake at 400° for about 15 minutes.

This winter at the NPNA potluck, Lisa adapted an "Ypsilanti Stew" from the *Moosewood Lowfat Cookbook*. From her garden right here in Normal Park, she combined homegrown fingerling potatoes, onions, heirloom green beans and tomatoes, oregano, parsley, and lemon verbena to form a vegetarian stew, and then topped it with feta cheese from Rosewood Farms in Ann Arbor. Only the olive oil, salt, and pepper in this traditional Greek stew came from more distant parts! This was a delicious and hearty dish that warmed up all those attending the potluck that chilly evening.

But what to drink with these meals? Good lighter-bodied Michigan wines are becoming more and more common. Sean is a particular fan of Chateau Fontaine in Lake Leelanau. Their almost rosé-light Pinot Noir is delicious with some fish and vegetarian fare, and almost all their wines are worth checking out. Chateau Grand Traverse's sweet Late Harvest Riesling has many fans, while Peninsula Cellars' Semi-Dry is another solid bet for a good Michigan white without quite as much sweetness. If you're looking for sparkling wines under \$20, it's hard to beat the selection from L. Mawby/M. Lawrence. Finally, many of the best wines produced in Michigan are dessert wines – if you want something from even closer to home, try the Red Raspberry from Lone Oak Vineyards right down the road in Jackson. Or just try a few on your own and see which ones you like best!

## News from the Community

### Rutherford Pool

As it stands (keep all fingers crossed), our neighborhood pool has survived another winter. There are not any plans with the YMCA at this point, but we will keep you updated. Dates to remember:

- April 26 from 1.30 to 3.30 pm at the Senior Center: First chance to sign up for Swim Lessons and purchase Family or Individual Passes. Although costs do continue to go up, the pool has kept all prices the same with the exception of Family Passes; however, if you purchase a Family Pass before May 26, you will save \$15.
- May 8-10: Help park cars at Matthaei Botanical Garden. Last year they donated \$500 to the pool in exchange for assistance in directing cars. Six people are needed to help over the weekend!
- May 16: Ypsi PRIDE at the pool.
- May 22: Opening evening; preseason schedule starts.
- June 6: Regular hours start.
- June 13: Wurst of Ypsilanti. This is the major fundraiser for the Pool. Join us from 4.00 pm to 10.00 pm for sausages and music in the Historic Entertainment District in Ypsilanti. We will need many volunteers to make this happen.
- June 14: Swim lessons begin. Swim lessons are available for toddlers through advanced child swimmers, and class times are in the mornings.

The pool needs plastic chairs (not broken), gently used swim suits, and swim diapers.

Thanks for your support of your neighborhood pool! For additional information on passes, lessons, or volunteering, contact:

Cathy Thorburn  
485-9457  
catabates@hotmail.com

### Neighborhood Greenscape Efforts

Our neighborhood is made more interesting, walkable and even safer by the volunteers who tend the landscaped end caps on the boulevards and at the Congress "V." We always need new additions to our crew or folks willing to help with periodic weeding and watering. No experience necessary. Please contact Jessica Faul (483-4690) or Sarah Devaney (480-9018) if you are interested in tending an end cap.

Amy Strutz  
Cell: 368-6945

## A J Leo Electric

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Jessica Rosevear: (517) 652-3018



## NPNA Neighborhood Yard Sale Registration Form

Saturday, June 6, 2009 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

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If you're planning on participating, help support your neighborhood association by registering early!

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There are always hundreds of eager customers.

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For a \$30 registration fee, you can place an business card-sized ad along the boundary of the map.

(Ads do not necessarily have to be regarding the yard sale.)

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Send this registration form in by **Friday, May 29** by mailing or dropping it off to  
NPNA Yard Sale, c/o **Megan Brown** at 1210 Grant Street. Checks should be made payable to **NPNA**.

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, miscellaneous household items):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- YES, please list me on the neighborhood map! (\$10)**
- YES, please include my enclosed business card-sized ad! (\$30)**
- YES, I am enclosing an additional \$10 for NPNA dues for my household! (\$10)**

## Real Estate Update

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

1226 S Congress	\$ 41,900
962 Sheridan	\$ 83,900
9 Wallace	\$ 88,500
907 Pearl	\$ 95,000
1208 Grant	\$ 99,000
350 S Mansfield	\$110,000
106 Mansfield	\$119,900
909 Sheridan	\$129,900
1211 Pearl	\$135,000
107 Elm	\$142,000
1214 Sherman	\$159,900
924 N Congress	\$159,900
1201 Pearl	\$166,900
1228 Westmoorland	\$169,900
93 Oakwood	\$175,000
915 Sheridan	\$175,000
916 Grant	\$185,000
915 N Congress	\$185,900
1107 W Cross	\$199,800

The following homes have recently sold:

1240 W Cross	\$ 52,000
955 Sheridan	\$ 67,000
1207 Grant	\$117,625
1120 Grant	\$117,900

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](mailto:elisa@trilliumrealtors.com) with all your real estate questions.

## Normal Park on the Web

Visit our website at [www.normalpark.org](http://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](mailto:listserv@normalpark.org).



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

## Mark your Calendar



For more information on our neighborhood events, visit [www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org).

- **Senior Center Rock-a-Thon** Apr 18
- **NPNA General Meeting** Apr 26  
Community/Senior Center, 5.00 pm, potluck
- **Ypsi PRIDE Day** May 16  
Throughout the city, 9.00 am – 12.00 pm
- **Rutherford Pool opens** May 22  
Regular hours start June 6
- **Memorial Day Parade** May 25  
Starts at 9:00 am
- **Crossroads Music Festival** June 5  
Free outdoor concert every Friday, downtown Ypsi
- **Normal Park Neighborhood Yard Sale** June 6  
Normal Park, 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
- **Wurst of Ypsilanti** June 13  
Washington Street, 4.00 pm – 10.00 pm  
(Music acts include Martindales and Ypsitucky Colonels)
- **Independence Day Parade** July 4  
Starting at Wallace & Cross, 11.00 am
- **Michigan Elvisfest** July 10-11  
Riverside Park
- **Walking Tour of Gardens** July  
Starting at WMS Garden, 5:30 pm
- **Shadow Art Fair** July 18  
Corner Brewery, 12.00 pm to midnight
- **NPNA Ice Cream Social** Aug 5  
Community Center, Rec Park, 6.00 pm
- **Heritage Festival** Aug 21-23  
Riverside Park, Depot Town, Frog Island and Downtown

## Contact the NPNA Board

President:	Sean Stidd	483-8301
Vice President:	Claudia Pettit	480-2714
Secretary:	<b>Open</b>	
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:	<b>Open</b>	
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.