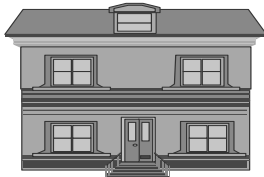


normal park neighborhood



association

# npna

Newsletter, Vol. XV, No. 4, Autumn 2003

## General Meeting Information

- Where:** Senior Citizen Center Rec Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 8, 2003  
**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
**Speakers:** Megan Gibb, Planning and Development Department Director, or Brett Lenart, Redevelopment Coordinator and John Weiss, Chairman of the Recreation Commission  
**Program:** The Water Street Project and the Recreation Commission

## NPNA GENERAL MEETING

The NPNA General Meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 8th at the Senior Center. The meeting will feature two exciting topics: the new Water Street Project underway in downtown Ypsilanti and the newly formed Recreation Commission.

Megan Gibb, Planning and Development Department Director, or Brett Lenart, Redevelopment Coordinator will give a presentation and answer our questions on the Water Street Project. The City of Ypsilanti has partnered with Biltmore Properties Corporation to transform a 38.4-acre industrial site into Water Street, a new neighborhood for the Downtown area. This partnership is aimed at creating and implementing a publicly envisioned redevelopment plan that provides opportunities for current and future residents of the City of Ypsilanti to live, work and recreate in a thriving and lively urban environment. Water Street is a dynamic project that will change the face of downtown Ypsilanti.

John Weiss, chairman of the newly formed Recreation Commission, will update us on the first few commission meetings and early thoughts/plans for addressing the recreation funding crisis plaguing our city. The Recreation Commission Update article in the newsletter has more information.

Please plan to join us on the 8th!



## RECREATION COMMISSION UPDATE

On July 15 City Council voted unanimously to reinstate the Recreation Commission to help address the critical issues surrounding the reduction of recreation programming and funding in the city. **Lisa Zuber** and **John Weiss** were appointed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, along with Patricia Horne McGee and Kerri Winkelseth (Ward 1) and Brian Filipiak and Judy Lucchetti (Ward 3). The charge of the Recreation Commission is to “seek sustainable alternatives and methods for making recreational programming available to the citizens of Ypsilanti.”

The conversations and planning that have taken place thus far within the Recreation Commission have focused on long range planning and funding. The group feels that its charge is best served by creating a plan that is far reaching and sustainable. In addition to assisting the Commission, Assistant City Manager, Shannon Stumbo Bellers has worked to put together a number of partnerships and grant funding requests to help maintain a minimum level of recreation services, with a focus on Parkridge Community Center and the Senior Center.

Over the past month, the Commission has begun work with Vic Chiasson, faculty member at Eastern Michigan in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Mr. Chiasson is assisting the Commission to draft a survey that will be sent to a random sample of voters throughout Ypsilanti. The purpose of the survey is to gauge community needs on Recreation and to find out what people would be willing to support in terms of some kind of long range, sustainable plan. Following the survey, Mr. Chiasson and a group of his graduate students have offered to hold focus groups around the community to further sort out interests and find out what kind of solution the community would be willing to support.

The Recreation Commission meets the first and third Thursday of each month through October and once a month, thereafter. The Commission meets at 6:00 PM in City Hall. Public comment is welcome at the beginning of each meeting. Additionally, if there is other information or comment you would like to provide, please email John Weiss, [weissjk@umich.edu](mailto:weissjk@umich.edu), Shannon Stumbo Bellers, [ssumbo@cityofypsilanti.com](mailto:ssumbo@cityofypsilanti.com) or visit the city’s website on the Recreation Commission, [cityofypsilanti.com/VHosts/Ypsilanti/boards/bd\\_recreation](http://cityofypsilanti.com/VHosts/Ypsilanti/boards/bd_recreation).

Please join us at the October 8th NPNA General Meeting for further information from 2nd ward representative **John Weiss** on the efforts and goals of the Commission.

## HARVEST WEEKEND FESTIVAL TO SAVE THE MARKET

The Ypsilanti Freight House is an historic community institution for the citizens and neighbors of Ypsilanti. It serves as the site for the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market, bringing together consumers and producers of fresh, local fruits and vegetables in a friendly atmosphere. The Freight House also adds character to the Depot Town business and cultural environment, and is host to a rich variety of community programming, including the WIC-Project Fresh market coupon program, community organizational meetings, special nutrition programs, the Young Adult Disabled Youth outings, craft fairs, weddings and ceremonies, auctions, children's gardening and nutrition programs, musical clubs and performances, and the list can go on.

It costs the city about \$55,000 annually to coordinate and support all the activities that take place at the Freight House. As of July 1, 2004, the funds that go towards keeping the Freight House and Farmers' Market open will run out, due to city-wide budget cuts, and all Freight House operations will cease. This would be a terrible loss to the community.

The Save the Market Campaign is an ad hoc coalition of community groups, businesses and individuals committed to raising funds to keep the Market in permanent operation. Any funds raised in excess of the \$55,000 goal will be used to either continue operations for the remainder of the 2004 Market season or, if the city is able to fund the market in the July 2005 budget, to improve facilities at the Market itself. The campaign will also explore alternative operating formats to prepare for the possibility that the city will remain unable to fund the Freight House.

The first major event will be a Harvest Weekend Festival to Save the Market on October 24 and 25 at the Freight House.

Events will include a First Anniversary Celebration Fundraising Dinner sponsored by Slow Food Huron Valley to benefit our Campaign. This will be held on Friday evening, the 24th. On Saturday, the 25th, there will be a Fall Festival including a pig roast and horse drawn hayrides.

These two major events are only the kick-off of a yearlong series of Campaign events. Help is needed to make the Harvest Weekend and subsequent events succeed. Many local businesses and clubs have already donated generously to this event yet sponsors, supporters, fundraising and event volunteers, speakers, organizers, publicity, contributions in-kind, and of course, financial contributions are still needed.

With your assistance, an historic community institution that fills such an important role for consumers and producers of fresh, local fruits and vegetables and for the citizens of the City of Ypsilanti will be saved

If you can help in any way to, please contact Paula Fields (pfields56@hotmail.com, 734-834-4979) or Peter di Lorenzi (pdlfoodandwine@aol.com, 734-222-3832 734-662-7189). For more information and a list of events for the Harvest Weekend Festival to Save the Market see the link at <http://cityofypsilanti.com/VHosts/Ypsilanti/news/savefh>

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Wednesday, August 6, residents of Normal Park came together for ice cream, games and community building.

The weather was wonderful, drawing over 50 people to the Rose Garden near the Senior Center. Ice cream and toppings were plentiful, as was cake as NPNA celebrated its 13th anniversary. Children (and many parents) enjoyed games and activities supplied by area residents: tetherball, basketball, soccer, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, tug-of-war, and balloons brought huge smiles and lots of laughs.

A big "Thank You!" goes out to **Christine Obeid** who organized the event. Christine kindly purchased all the ice cream supplies and helium/balloons, got to the event early to set up and even roped her two children, **Chloe** and **Griffin**, into helping out. Many, many thanks to the Obeid family.

Thanks also go out the following individuals/families:

- **Kristi Martin** for donating the two NPNA "birthday" cakes;
- The **Weiss** family for the bubbles and tug-of-war rope.
- The **Sylvester** family for the tetherball, basketball, and much more.

## NEW PARENT GROUP

Hello my name is Sarah Naperala. I just had my first baby in July. Since then, I have noticed many other newborns in our neighborhood while out for walks with my son. Congratulations to all of you.

I would like to invite new parents or caregivers and their babies interested in sharing their experiences, ideas, tips, quick recipes, etc. to meet on Tuesday, October 14 at 11:30 am at the picnic pavilion in Recreation Park. If the weather is inclement, please plan to meet on Thursday, October 16 at 11:30 am.

If you are interested but cannot attend on Thursday please call me, Sarah Naperala, at 485-2750 or email me at [bacon\\_sarah@hotmail.com](mailto:bacon_sarah@hotmail.com). Also, please contact me with ideas or suggestions for the playgroup.

I would also like to invite other parents or caregivers and their young children to meet at the park too. Maybe if there are interested parents with older children of toddler and preschool age you could start a playgroup.

I look forward to meeting everyone and their babies.

### New Parent Socialization and Baby Playgroup

**Date:** Tuesday, October 14, 2003  
inclement weather date October 16

**Time:** 11:30 am

**Where:** Recreation Park, Picnic Pavilion

**Contact:** Sarah Naperala at 485-2750  
or email [bacon\\_sarah@hotmail.com](mailto:bacon_sarah@hotmail.com)

## REC PARK NEWS

### Jogging Path – Work in Progress

Check out the new jogging path that surrounds the perimeter of Recreation Park. The work is about 70% completed. Shannon Stumbo Bellars, who heads the Parks and Recreation projects for the City of Ypsilanti, has reviewed the progress of the path with the contractor, Margolis Nursery. The path needs a top layer of finer grade crushed limestone in order to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility. The edges will also be cleaned up, so that it is a more attractive, well defined path. The width and location of the path are in accordance with the Rec Park Master Plan. Once complete, the path will be a beautiful addition to Rec Park.

It is already a pleasure to be able to walk around the park on a smooth, dry path. We look forward to the completion of this project.

### Park Bench and Final Commemorative Bricks Coming Soon

We were informed that the park bench and final commemorative bricks would be installed within one week of the writing of this article. The NPNA Board will be delighted when this phase of the Rec Park Restoration Project (which started in 1995) will be complete.

### Tennis Courts

As part of their contract with the City of Ypsilanti, the street contractors have committed to completely restoring the section of Recreation Park being used for their staging area. The neighbors have noticed that the staging area has swollen to about twice its original size. In accordance with their agreement, the contractors will restore the hard surface court, which will be designed as a multi-purpose court with rolled edges, and will install two basketball nets.

With all the dust, noise and commotion we've been living with this summer, it will certainly be a relief to have the park and hard surface courts restored and functional again – not to mention the pleasure of driving on beautiful, newly paved streets!

### 2003 BOARD MEMBERS/CHAIRPERSONS

President:	Lisa Wozniak	483-5013
Treasurer:	Rebecca Dunkle	482-9330
Recreation Park:	Carol Leyshock	481-0836
Greenscape Chair:	Sarah Weiss	480-1823
Newsletter	Joe Capuano	483-6091
Website	Nick Mason	
At-large members:	Heather Benoit	481-0726
	Sue Collins	483-6609
	Kirsten Mowrey	

If you have anything you would like discussed at the next board meeting please contact a board member. The next board meeting is October 1.

## BOOKS AND MORE

For a small town, Ypsilanti has an abundance of bookstores. Most of them are within walking distance of our neighborhood.

### Cross Street Book Shop

423 W. Cross, 484-3000

It's been there a few years, just across from EMU. There's always something new at this crowded used bookstore that caters to everyone's tastes. Open until 7 most days.

### David's Books and Media, Inc.

215 W. Michigan Avenue, 527-7137

[www.davidsbooksandmedia.com](http://www.davidsbooksandmedia.com)

The newest store on the block, open M-W until 8, Th-Sat until 10, Sun noon-6. They buy and sell new and used books, CDs, DVDs and more.

### Mike's Book Store

901 Washtenaw Avenue, corner of Summit, 487-8700

The only bookstore within the Normal Park neighborhood itself, mostly textbooks for EMU classes, but a nice place to pick up a last-minute pen or highlighter without having to drive for miles. M-Th 8:30-6:30, Fri 8:30-4:30

### South Side Baptist Bookstore

6710 Textile Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 734-482-4161,

<http://www.ssbtonline.org>

### Ned's Student Book Store

707 W Cross, 483-6400

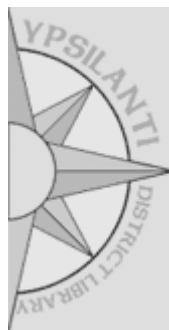
### White Raven Books

101 W. Michigan Ave, 417-7286.

Books of interest bought and sold, including scholarly and collectible material. Fri-Sat 10-6 and by appointment. Owned by Normal Park neighbor Hedger Breed. [whiteravenbooks@provide.net](mailto:whiteravenbooks@provide.net)

And don't forget...

### Ypsilanti District Library



[www.ypsilibrary.org](http://www.ypsilibrary.org)

YDL – Michigan Avenue 482-4110

Hours: Mon – Thu 10 am - 8 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm

YDL - Whittaker Road, 482-4110

Hours: Mon – Thu 10 am - 9 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Sun (Sep-May) 1 pm - 5 pm

The Michigan Ave branch re-opened in April after a beautiful restoration. It is within walking or biking distance for most

of us. At the Michigan Ave and the Whittaker Road branches you'll find excellent facilities and a full schedule of children's events, book discussion clubs and a variety of speakers and programs of interest to all. Also check out the Bookmobile that visits our own neighborhood (at Edith Hefley Park) every Wednesday at about 5:30 pm.

## HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

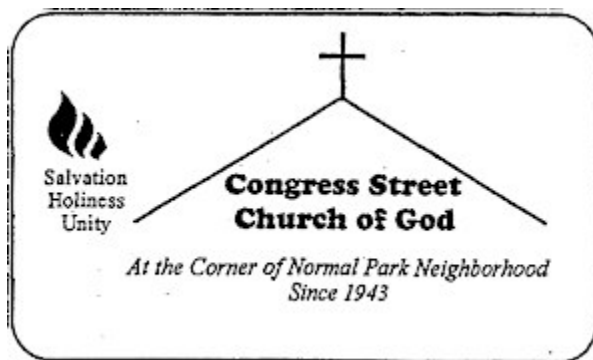
As of this printing, the following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

1215 S. Congress	\$129,900
1211 N. Congress	\$149,900
1104 Pearl St	\$159,900
107 Oakwood	\$159,900
930 N Congress	\$177,900
1214 Sherman	\$179,000
1210 Grant	\$182,900
1111 Westmoorland	\$184,900
910 Grant	\$197,500
218 N Summit	\$205,000
211 Elm	\$219,900
105 N Summit	\$224,900
308 N. Wallace	\$229,000
1202 Sherman	\$229,900
1213 Sherman	\$229,900
916 Grant	\$229,900
1014 W. Cross	\$269,000

The following homes have sold recently:

1123 N. Congress	\$148,900
1120 Grant	\$175,000
1122 Pearl	\$190,000
90 Oakwood	\$210,000
1305 Grant	\$224,900
959 Sherman	\$259,900

**Sue Collins**, an NPNA resident and agent at Real Estate One provided the above information. Contact her at 483-6609 or 662-8600.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **NPNA General Meeting** Oct 8  
Senior Center Rec Park, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- **Harvest Weekend Festival to Save the Market** Oct 24, 25  
Historic Freight House
- **Downtown Halloween Fall Festival** Oct 30  
Michigan Avenue, 5:00 – 7:30 pm
- **Heritage Holidays & Home Tour** Dec 7  
Call the Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureau at 734-483-4444 for more information
- **New Year's Jubilee** Dec 31  
Ypsilanti, 6:00 pm – 1:00 am  
Call the Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureau at 734-483-4444 for more information

## NEIGHBORHOOD EMAIL GROUP

Please sign up for our neighborhood email group, which we use for neighborhood updates, announcements, and other local news items. It's a nice supplement to our quarterly newsletter. To be included on the list send your email address to Rebecca Dunkle, [rdunkle@umich.edu](mailto:rdunkle@umich.edu),

If you have news items of your own that you would like to have sent out to the neighborhood, email [npna@umich.edu](mailto:npna@umich.edu).

## NPNA DUES

In addition to the annual yard sale, dues are one of the NPNA's main source of funding. They are not required but they do help our neighborhood pay for projects like Recreation Park improvements. Dues are \$10.00 per household and anyone who contributes \$40.00 or more will receive a NPNA coffee mug. Payment of cash or check made to NPNA can be given to any of the board members.

Thank you for your support.

## ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER

The NPNA newsletter reaches over 700 households in Ypsilanti. A business card sized ad is only \$30.00 an issue. If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter please contact a member of the board.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks go to Kristi Martin for the printing of this newsletter. Thank you.