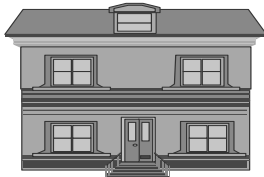


normal park neighborhood



association

www.normalpark.org

Newsletter, Vol. XVI, No. 1, Winter 2004

npna

General Meeting Information

- Where:** Senior Citizen Center Rec Park
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2004
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Speakers: Meg Delaney manager of the Michigan Ave branch of the Ypsilanti District Library and Captain Matt Harshberger of the Ypsilanti Police Department
Program: Spotlight on Community Resources: The Ypsilanti Public Library with the Bookmobile and the Ypsilanti Police Department

NPNA GENERAL MEETING

The NPNA General Meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, January 28th at the Senior Center.

This meeting we are focusing on two resources in our community.

Meg Delaney, the manager of the Michigan Ave branch of the Ypsilanti District Library will be talking about the services and programs the library has to offer. She will also be bringing the Bookmobile along.



The second half of the evening will be devoted to the safety of our neighborhood. Captain Matt Harshberger and Sgt. Troy Fulton of the Ypsilanti Police Department will be on hand discuss the safety of Normal and answer questions.

Please plan to join us on Wednesday, January 28th!

NORMAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD WEB SITE



npna

normal park neighborhood association

ypsilanti, michigan

Normal Park Neighborhood Association has a web site. Keep up to date on the latest information and events happening in our neighborhood and city. There is also an extensive list of links to city, community and business websites.

It can be found at www.normalpark.org.

Check it out. If you have any suggestions or comments please let a member of the board know or contact Joe Capuano at 483-6091 or email at jocap@provide.net.

NORMAL PARK IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

As many of you know, there have been a couple of disturbing incidents in and around Normal Park over the past couple of months. Don't let a few recent incidents badly reported in the Ann Arbor News/Ypsilanti Press convince you otherwise.

In late November, there was a shooting at the small convenience store in the 900 block of Congress. Around the same time there were two reports of a hooded visitor carrying a gun in the Woods Neighborhood area (the neighborhood just south of Recreation Park).

While this is not good news, by any means, these incidents are not the norm for our neighborhood and the surrounding area. To find out more about the situation, the NPNA Board invited Capt. Matt Harshberger to our last meeting on December 10, 2003. Capt. Harshberger verified that these incidents were an anomaly for our area. He recommended we check the "Police Beat" in the Ypsilanti Press for reassurance. For those of you who read the "Police Beat" regularly, you know that most of the incidents reported take place in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Township. Our city and, in particular, our neighborhood is a very safe place.

The NPNA Board asked Capt. Harshberger whether he would recommend the rejuvenation of a "neighborhood watch" given the recent incidents and his response was very interesting. Capt. Harshberger said "neighborhood watches" are traditionally formed when there isn't a solid neighborhood association in place. In our case, he recommended we use our existing NPNA structure to just deepen and strengthen communication. He recommended that we:

- Encourage people to let the NPNA Board know when an incident happens in the neighborhood. The Board can then get the information to the neighborhood over our NPNA email list.
- Inform residents that Sgt. Troy Fulton has been assigned to be our neighborhood contact at the police department.
- Inform residents that if you need an immediate response to something, please contact police department directly as opposed to Sgt. Fulton.

Capt. Harshberger promised to provide the bi-weekly crime report compiled by EMU to our Treasurer and Community Policing Action Council (CoPac) representative, Rebecca Dunkle, at the monthly CoPac meetings.

Capt. Harshberger and Sgt. Troy Fulton will be attending our NPNA General Meeting on Wednesday, January 28th, to discuss the above incidents and answer questions on the safety of the Normal Park neighborhood.

RECREATION COMMISSION UPDATE

The Recreation Commission continues to meet monthly with a charge to “seek sustainable alternatives and methods for making recreational programming available to the citizens of Ypsilanti”. **Lisa Zuber** and **John Weiss** represent the 2nd Ward and serve with Patricia Horne McGee and Kerri Winkelseth (Ward 1) and Brian Filipiak and Judy Lucchetti (Ward 3).

One of the Commission’s fall projects was the development of a survey to gauge community needs on Recreation and to find out what residents would be willing to support in terms of some kind of long range, sustainable plan. The surveys were sent to a random sample of voters throughout Ypsilanti in late December. Residents who received the survey are encouraged to complete and return it as soon as they can. The information collected will guide further recommendations by the Commission and will also help structure our focus groups. These are tentatively scheduled to meet on February 10th (City Hall), February 12th (Senior Center) and February 14th (Parkridge Community Center). Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Short-term funding solutions continue to develop for Parkridge Community Center and the Senior Center. A tentative deal with the non-profit agency Parents Together will unfortunately not move forward. However, the City was able to secure a number of grants to sustain programming at Parkridge through the winter and spring.

Friends of the Rutherford Pool was initiated in October and has been working to raise the approximately \$50,000 necessary to keep the pool open 2004. One of the group’s primary fundraising efforts involves solicitation of residents through pledge cards. The pledge cards are being circulated throughout the city and residents are urged to pledge as much as they can.

Additionally, a kid-focused fundraising effort is being initiated called “Pennies for the Pool”. Children are encouraged to collect and donate their pennies to help save the pool. On February 7 a fundraising “Summer Pool Party” is occurring at Frenchies in Depot Town.

If you have any questions, want to attend a meeting, gather pledges or just want to make a donation please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Gouine at wgouine1@mac.com or call her at 482-1575.

The Recreation Commission meets the first Thursday of each month 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), Shannon Stumbo Bellers (ssumbo@cityofypsilanti.com) or visit the city’s website on the Recreation Commission http://cityofypsilanti.com/VHosts/Ypsilanti/boards/bd_recreation.

SAVE THE POOL BY SAVING YOUR PENNIES

As you are aware, our city is suffering under the intense statewide budget cuts. That is sad and scary. One of the most depressing things happening specifically in our neighborhood is the imminent closure of the Rutherford Municipal Pool. As the situation currently stands the pool will not be open this summer.

Among the grass roots committees fighting to save the more pleasant aspects of Ypsilanti from the budget ax is a group called F.O.R. Pool or Friends of Rutherford Pool. This group has been meeting since early November and has achieved a cohesive mission statement and an ultimate goal of raising over \$50,000. We want to see the pool filled with water and with people this summer!

To reach our funding goal we are seeking corporate sponsors, looking at grants, and communicating with the Ann Arbor Community Foundation.

After the holidays we will be circulating throughout the city with pledge cards. This is where we really need the people who use the pool to step up. If you can take 5 or 10 pledge cards and get them filled --or if you just want a pledge card yourself please contact Wendy Gouine at 482-1575.

Do your children consider the Rutherford Municipal Pool their pool; perhaps they could donate their pennies to our Save Your Pennies! Save Our Pool! fund. Starting in early January there will be a collection day where residents can drop off their change jars at the Senior Center. Then we are having a rolling party on Saturday, January 17, from 10 am to 4 pm. Every penny really does count, so save your change for us.

On Saturday, February 7, the big folks will have a chance to help fund the pool by attending our fundraising “Summer Pool Party” at Frenchies in Depot Town. Local musician Will Stewart has volunteered to get us dancing with lots of hot summer songs. There will also be tasty summer beverages and delicious snacks. We are holding a raffle and a silent auction so bring your pocketbook.

If you have any questions, would like to attend a meeting, gather pledges or just want to make a donation please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Gouine at wgouine1@mac.com or phone her at 482-1575.

NPNA DUES

In addition to the annual yard sale, dues are one of the NPNA’s main sources 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.

REC PARK NEWS

Jogging Path Complete

Recreation Park now has a completely finished jogging path that surrounds the perimeter of the park. The top layer of crushed limestone was added in the fall and the edges were cleaned up.

It is now a more attractive, well-defined path, and a pleasure to stroll along. The width and location of the path are in accordance with the Recreation Park Master Plan.

Unfortunately, the street contractors have torn up a couple of sections of the path, but they should be easily repaired once spring arrives. The NPNA will be following up with the City to be sure it is fixed. Despite these blemishes, the path is a beautiful addition to the park.

Park Bench and Final Commemorative Bricks Installed

The City has finally installed two park benches and the final commemorative bricks in the plaza next to the play structure.

There remains one last plaque to be installed near the swing set. The NPNA Board will be delighted when this phase of the Recreation Park Restoration Project (which started in 1995) is complete.

Take a stroll around the park!

HENRIETTA FAHRENHEIT

Need a card or unusual gift for that creative someone in your life? You no longer need to trek out to the mall – we now have a shopping alternative right in downtown Ypsilanti.

Opened in 2002 at 126 W. Michigan Ave, Henrietta Fahrenheit showcases clothing, accessories, cards and gifts created by independent designers and craftspeople.

In addition to hand-made skirts, handbags, scarves, notebooks, and jewelry, you can view art on display and purchase tickets to hear area bands.

This stylish, welcoming haven is the brainchild of Ypsilanti resident Jennifer Albaum, who had a vision for opening a “cool little funky store” that was part of the community. The store is a reflection of its owner, a southern raised urban geographer by training and local musician.

Feel free to browse, take a break on the antique couch and visit with Jennifer and her friendly sales assistant. Henrietta Fahrenheit is a main destination in downtown Ypsilanti’s new vibrant core of businesses. Stop by or visit the web site at www.henrietafahrenheit.com.



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Remember moving into Normal Park and wondering, ‘Where is the closest hardware store?’ ‘When is trash day?’ or ‘I wonder if there is anything fun to do around here?’. To help answer these and other questions the Normal Park Neighborhood Association has put together a **Welcome to the Neighborhood!** bag for new neighbors.

The bag contains information about Normal Park, Ypsilanti, and the surrounding areas. Some of the items included in the bag are the Ypsilanti Courier Resource Guide, maps, EMU sports schedules, Ypsilanti Museum listings, Ypsilanti District Library information, coupons, and much more!

Heather Benoit, the NPNA Social Chair, has taken the role of New Neighbor coordinator. If you live near someone who has moved to our neighborhood recently, or in the future a new neighbor moves in, please contact Heather at habenoit@umich.edu or 481-0726. She is coordinator for getting the welcome bag to our new neighbors as soon as possible.

If you are interested in helping to welcome our new neighbors to Normal Park, please contact either Heather, habenoit@umich.edu, or any NPNA board member.

Welcome to our neighborhood!

HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

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

1215 S. Congress	\$129,900
912 Congress	\$155,000
1104 Pearl St	\$159,900
1210 Grant	\$179,900
211 Elm	\$214,900
308 N. Wallace	\$224,900
915 Sherman Court	\$224,900
1113 Westmoreland	\$260,000
1014 W. Cross	\$269,000

The following homes have sold recently:

1211 N. Congress	\$139,000
107 Oakwood	\$159,900
1111 Westmoorland	\$175,000
910 Grant	\$195,500
1203 Grant	\$204,900

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



CROSS STREET PLAN

ADOPTED

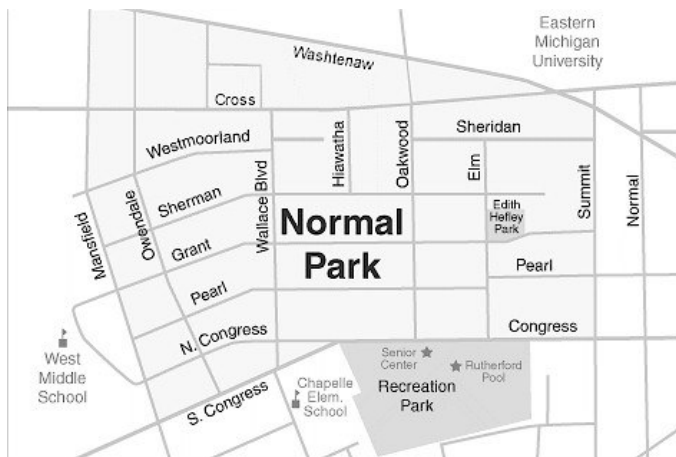
Many NPNA residents participated in various discussions about the Cross Street Area Master Plan. The Planning Commission adopted the Cross Street Area Master Plan Amendments during the November 19th meeting. The final, adopted plan of the Master Plan amendments is available at <http://www.cityofypsilanti.com/maps/finalcross>. Additional information is available from the City Planning and Development Department at 734-483-9646.

YPSI PRIDE DAY 2004

Mark your calendars now for this year's Ypsilanti PRIDE Day, which has been moved one week to May 22 instead of May 15. Watch this newsletter for opportunities to participate in the neighborhood Ypsi PRIDE efforts in May. If you are interested in making a donation to this city-wide effort or want more information contact the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce at 301 West Michigan Ave, 482-4920.

WHAT MAKES UP NORMAL PARK?

Ever wondered what encompasses the Normal Park neighborhood? It covers the area bounded by the south side of Washtenaw Avenue on the north, Congress Street on the south, Mansfield Street on the west, and the west side of Summit Street on the east. Approximately 700 households are in the Normal Park neighborhood, all of which are automatically members of the neighborhood association.



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.

If you have news items of your own that you would like to have sent out to the neighborhood, email npna@umich.edu.

2004 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/Website:	Joe Capuano	483-6091
New Neighbor Chair:	Heather Benoit	481-0726
At-large members:	Sue Collins	483-6609
	Nick Mason	
	Kirsten Mowrey	

If you have any 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.

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 board member or see our website at www.normalpark.org.

SPECIAL THANKS

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **NPNA General Meeting** Jan 28
Senior Center Rec Park, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- **F.O.R. Pool Party** Feb 7
Frenchies, Depot Town
- **NPNA General Meeting** Apr 28
Senior Center Rec Park, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- **Ypsi Pride Day** May 22



Lisa Zuber

Your Local Source for Hexabits

Individual • Commercial • Educational



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