



# npna

normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

Newsletter, Vol. XVI, No. 2, Spring 2004

## General Meeting Information

**Where:** Senior Citizen Center Rec Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 28, 2004  
**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
**Speakers:** Michael Appel, current chapter president from Wild Ones Natural Landscapers and Amanda Edmonds, founder of Growing Hope  
**Program:** Elections and Its Spring Again

## NPNA GENERAL MEETING

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

The meeting will feature two wonderful seasonal speakers: Michael Appel, current chapter president from Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization; and Amanda Edmonds, founder of Growing Hope, which promotes education, food production and life empowerment through community-based gardening.

Michael will talk about the creation of Wild Ones, whose mission is to "promote biodiversity and environmentally sound practices", with a focus on the use of native plants and natural landscapes. Unlike non-native species, such as Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) and Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), native plants save energy; require less irrigation, mowing and chemical applications. Native plants also stay put, as they are suited to their environment and not invasive, and they provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and other desirable wildlife. Finally, for those who strive for exceptional beauty in their gardens, native plants are a delightful change as they provide a glimpse into the plant history and heritage of our region. For more information, please check out the Wild Ones website at [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org).

Amanda Edmonds will talk about the incredible projects that Growing Hope has done and plans to do in the Ypsilanti area. Growing Hope's work includes the Perry Learning Garden, the Ypsilanti Roots and Shoots Garden Program (Depot Town), and a project with S.O.S. Crisis Center. The involvement of youth and other volunteers from the communities is critical to every Growing Hope project, as well as the strong partnership they have formed with the University of Michigan. For more information, please check out the Growing Hope website at [www.creativechange.net/ghope/](http://www.creativechange.net/ghope/).

Interested in being more involved in the Normal Park neighborhood? The NPNA is holding elections for President and Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested in running please contact a board member before the meeting.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - LISA WOZNAK

It's too bad that Normal Park was chosen for the distribution of white supremacist flyers. Not only was the wrong neighborhood targeted, but also the timing couldn't have been worse.

Normal Park is an increasingly diverse neighborhood in terms of race and ethnicity, as well as in terms of age, religion and sexual preference. And we're PROUD of our diversity. We're also a neighborhood that has a tradition of working together to both combat discrimination and to help ensure our neighborhood, and the entire city, is as tolerant, inclusive and vibrant as possible.

In 2002, Normal Park rallied together to support the Ypsilanti Campaign for Equality. Our very own **Beth Bashert** and **Lisa Zuber** were co-chairs of that effort, and many of our neighbors were actively involved at various other levels of the campaign: **Lorie Thom** and **Elizabeth Eddins**, for example, were key leaders of the field team; **John Weiss** helped with financial matters, and **Matt** and **Rene Greff** provided food, which had a huge impact on the campaign's ability to motivate and retain the volunteers.

In 2003, in the wake of the city's elimination of recreation funds in the budget, our neighborhood jumped into gear to ensure that our city's gems, the Senior Center, Rutherford Pool, Parkridge Community Center, and the Freighthouse, were not shut down. Residents **John Weiss**, now chair of the newly formed Recreation Commission, and **Wendy Guine**, chair of the Friends of Rutherford Pool, are among many who have devoted countless hours to ensure that our city's children, seniors and families continue to have recreation opportunities that provide necessary services and help foster community.

According to Governor Granholm, Ypsilanti is on the up and coming "Cool Cities" list. Economic growth is, of course, an absolutely necessary component of creating and sustaining "cool". We have to have "cool" places to shop, like Henrietta Fahrenheit, Rubber Soul and Bombadills (soon-to-be opened café downtown), and we have to find permanent solutions to our budgetary problems affecting recreation opportunities. This means attracting and retaining folks with new ideas.

According to Dr. Richard Florida, the Heinz Professor for Economic Development at Carnegie Mellon University, "Human creativity is the ultimate source of economic growth. Every single person is creative in some way. And to fully tap and harness that creativity we must be tolerant, diverse and inclusive." Residents of Normal Park understand that in order for Ypsilanti to truly be a "Cool City", we must build a tradition of tolerance and acceptance for new people and new ideas; we need to become a place where creativity thrives.

So, to the individual(s) who dropped the flyer in our neighborhood, I say, "Sorry, but we're on our way to "cool" and that means leaving bigotry and racism far behind. You picked the wrong neighborhood!"

## **JOIN THE NPNA ON YPSILANTI PRIDE DAY, SATURDAY MAY 22**

Come join us Saturday, May 22nd, as residents from Normal Park beautify our community gardens and parks on Ypsi Pride Day. We will have volunteers at both Rec Park and Edith Hefley Park, as well as the continuing efforts to tend the planted end-caps on Wallace and Westmoorland Boulevards.

We will be in the parks from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. All volunteers will receive a free 2004 Pride Day t-shirt. The City will be hosting a picnic (and free food) in Riverside Park afterwards from 12:00pm to 2:00pm.

Although some tools will be available at the parks you are encouraged to bring any of the following equipment: rake, broom, shovel, trowel, weeding tools, edger, pruning clippers, grass clippers, and gloves.

### **Recreation Park**

We have a lively group every Ypsi Pride day at The Rose Garden and grounds around the Senior Center weeding and sprucing up the rose beds, edging the sidewalks, sweeping the patio, planting flowers, pruning shrubbery, and anything else we can think of.

Volunteers are also needed in the parking lot and playground areas of Rec Park. Families with small children can help here and the kids can use the climber or swings. While not as glamorous as the garden beds, these areas need mulch and sand raked, trash gathered and invasives like Buckthorn clipped.

### **Edith Hefley Park**

Volunteers will again descend on Edith Hefley Park, named after peace activist and Normal Park Resident Edith Hefley. We will work to spruce-up the two ornamental spots: the raised bed around the Peace Pole and planted area around the park sign at the corner of Elm and Grant. We will gather weeds and leaves and add some plants for interest throughout the growing season. We will distribute mulch and also continue to tame the scrub growth at the eastern edge. Some tools and plant material will be available but any extras are welcome.

### **End-Caps on Wallace, Westmoorland & Congress V**

The road resurfacing is behind us and the neglected end-caps are ready for some TLC. Ypsi Pride day falls at an ideal time in the gardening calendar for end-cap volunteers to prepare these garden beds for the season. Thanks in advance for contacting our greenscape coordinator, **Sarah Weiss** at 480-1823 or [sarahweiss@comcast.net](mailto:sarahweiss@comcast.net), indicating your commitment to maintain or take on one of these vital neighborhood gardens. We hope to have a good collection of donated plants available to fill any holes in existing designs. See the description below regarding plans for a plant donation drop off.

Those of you looking for a one-day project can assist with edging - digging a shallow trench to keep grass and city mowers at bay. Water is a big need, those of you at corners close to community gardens, please consider chipping in by making water available to volunteer gardeners or adding a little yourself as needed.

### **Donations for Ypsi-Pride Day**

We will be planting annuals and perennials in the parks and end-caps. If you find you have extra plants from your own spring planting, drop them off ahead of time at 1018 North Congress, just across the street from the Senior Center. You can leave flats and divided perennials in the side yard, which runs along Oakwood Street. Your donations will be greatly appreciated!

A little help will make a big impact. Please consider taking part. We welcome all neighbors, young and old, to help make our parks and neighborhood look beautiful and have fun in the process!

### **REC PARK NEWS**

#### **Looking Forward to a Restored Park**

At a recent meeting with Ypsilanti City representatives, Shannon Stumbo Bellars and Harry Hutchison, members of the NPNA board received good news about the restoration plans for Recreation Park. The park will not be used as a staging area for this year's street improvements.

As the neighbors around the park are all aware, Recreation Park was used as a staging ground for construction equipment while contractors worked on the streets last year. Almost all of the equipment has been removed, along with much of the debris.

The contractors have agreed to restore the park to its original state, with some improvements. A new hard surface court with rolled edges will replace the tennis courts. Two basketball nets will also be installed for summer activity. The rolled edges will allow flooding of the courts for an ice rink in the winter.

The grassy areas just south of the courts will be filled in and smoothed out. The City will request the contractor to add extra fill to the historically low areas that have tended to become swampy after a hard rain. Sloping and drainage should be improved.

The new jogging path will also be restored. We have been assured that it will be just as lovely as it was when first installed. Expectations are to have the improvements finished by June. We're sure that everyone in the area will enjoy the view, once all of the restoration is complete.

### **LAWN CARE**

As we head into the gardening season, we'd like to pass along some information from the Huron River Watershed Council. These tips are designed to keep our lawns healthy and river healthy and our pocket books fat.

Mow your lawn at least three inches high; this shades out weeds and causes the grass to grow deep roots, helping them to survive hot summer droughts. Also leave your grass clippings as mulch, putting nutrients back into the soil and decreasing the need for fertilizer. And for the especially ambitious, you can garden with native plants. They are easy to grow, adjusted to our climate, and require little water and maintenance. For more information, visit the Huron River Watershed Council's website at [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org) or call 769-5123.

Also, Wild Ones is speaking at the General Meeting on April 28, to talk about gardening with native plants.

## RECREATION COMMISSION UPDATE

The Recreation Commission, appointed last July to help address the critical issues surrounding the reduction of recreation programming and funding in the city, conducted several activities in the late winter. The current focus is gauging the community's needs and concerns about recreation and beginning to find out what the community would be willing to support in terms of a long range, sustainable plan. In January the Commission sent a survey to a random sample of 1000 residents who voted in the 2000 election. The effort was greatly assisted by Vic Chiasson of Eastern Michigan University. Two hundred and fifty six people responded to the survey. Some of the survey highlights include:

- After school programs at Parkridge ranked the highest recreation priority overall, the Farmers Market ranked second and health and fitness programs for seniors as third.
- A large majority (89%) of respondents would favor supporting new initiative to fund recreation. Most (62%) would favor supporting such a proposal in the \$25-\$75 per year range.
- Respondents ranked swim lessons as the highest pool priority, with open swim a close second.
- People feel that recreation is vital to young people and seniors in the community; additionally there were a number of respondents who were concerned about the pool closing
- Some respondents feel that the parks need better maintenance, more lighting and are concerned about the removal of play equipment.

Following the surveys three community forums were held across the City. The purposes of the forums were to report on the results of the survey, to hear additional ideas, and to further sort out the kinds of programs and funding proposals the community would be willing to support. Approximately twenty people attended each of the forums, and some of their reactions and suggestions included:

- Work more closely with Eastern Michigan University to help increase recreation programs, as well as promote existing collaboration with Eastern (like activities at Senior Center)
- Support for some kind of additional funding (millage or fee increases) to support recreation
- Involve more young people in conversations, fundraising and decisions around recreation, including the possibility of a youth symposium or council
- Consider new programs, like outdoor ice skating (which used to exist) and new walking and biking paths
- Involve volunteer citizen efforts to help maintain recreation facilities and programs

A visioning session was held on April 3 to continue the conversation with the community about our future recreation needs and to brainstorm some additional ideas about possible directions for recreation. The input from this meeting will guide long term strategic planning and recommendations that the Commission will undertake this spring

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

contact the Recreation Commissioners in the third ward: **John Weiss** at [weissjk@umich.edu](mailto:weissjk@umich.edu) or 734.480.1823 or **Lisa Zuber** at [lzuber@ameritech.net](mailto:lzuber@ameritech.net) or 734.484.0372.

## MANTIS GARDEN SUPPLY

Mantis Garden Supply has been mentioned in this column before, as a wonderful local supplier for your gardening needs. But did you know that they also carry a broad selection of high-quality pet food and treats? Mantis carries such well-known brands as Wysong, Solid Gold, Innova, among others. And if you simply wish to try a sample, Mantis often has them available.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The NPNA is looking for volunteers. From the elected officers and board member to neighbors helping to beautify our neighborhood and creating a stronger community, volunteers are what make the NPNA work. There are current and new opportunities for future projects that need volunteers.

### Current Opportunities

**End-Cap Garden Beds:** after construction work last season the garden beds at the ends of Wallace and Westmoorland are in dire straights. Volunteers are needed to adopt these mini gardens, assist with their upkeep, or help water them. Any level of commitment and experience is welcome.

**Adopt-a-street:** The NPNA is the volunteer caretaker of Congress Street, from Summit to Wallace. With its park adjacency and traffic volume, this stretch is especially important to neighborhood appearance.

### New Opportunities

**Soccer Clinic:** now that spring is here kids start thinking soccer. To get ready for the season we would like to hold a soccer clinic to tune up those winter rusty skills.

**Normal Park Garden Tour:** our neighborhood has some beautiful gardens and we would like to show them off.

**Halloween Parade:** imagine a line of ghosts, fairy princesses, and superheroes parading through our neighborhood.

**Night of Lights:** a stroll in a neighborhood full of lights! An evening is picked where neighbors put out luminary bags along the sidewalks of their yards.

**Senior/Invalid Aides:** there are some in our neighborhood who could use a bit of extra help like shoveling snow, storm clean up or running an errand.

If you would like to volunteer to coordinate or help out with any of these projects please contact either Lisa Wozniak at 483-5013 or email her [lisa\\_wozniak@lcvef.org](mailto:lisa_wozniak@lcvef.org).

There will be a sign up sheet at the General Meeting on April 28.

## YOGA CLASS AT SENIOR CENTER

Preliminary discussions are underway regarding the establishment of a yoga class at the Senior Center. If you are interested, please contact either Lisa Wozniak at 483-5013 or email her [lisa\\_wozniak@lcvef.org](mailto:lisa_wozniak@lcvef.org) or Patrick McLean at [pmclean818@earthlink.net](mailto:pmclean818@earthlink.net).

## HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

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

1215 S. Congress	\$124,900
912 Congress	\$140,000
930 Congress	\$174,900
1210 Grant	\$179,900
350 N. Mansfield	\$182,000
1204 N. Congress	\$194,900
475 Owendale	\$198,500
1007 W. Cross	\$210,000
1 Oakwood	\$212,900
211 Elm	\$214,900
1118 Grant	\$214,900
917 Grant	\$219,900
308 N. Wallace	\$224,900
948 Sheridan	\$259,900
1113 Westmoreland	\$260,000

The following homes have sold recently:

1104 Pearl St	\$154,000
203 Oakwood	\$209,500
915 Sherman Court	\$220,000
1014 W. Cross	\$260,000

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



## 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/Website:	Joe Capuano	483-6091
New Neighbor Chair:	Heather Benoit	481-0726
At-large members:	Sue Collins	483-6609
	Kirsten Mowrey	
	Bea Otis	

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.

## 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.

## SPECIAL THANKS

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more and up to date information see [www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org)

- **NPNA General Meeting** Apr 28  
Senior Center Rec Park, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- **Mother's Day Craft Show** May 1  
Freighthouse
- **Show & Shine Street Rod Show** May 2  
Riverside Park
- **Country Jubilee** May 15  
Freighthouse, 1:00 pm – 11:00 pm
- **Ypsi Pride Day** May 22  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Michigan Volkswagon Festival** May 23  
Riverside Park
- **Memorial Day Parade** May 31  
Downtown, 9:00 am
- **Edsel Meet** Jun 2  
Riverside Park
- **NPNA Yard Sale** Jun 5  
Normal Park, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **Orphan Car Show** Jun 6  
Riverside Park
- **Discover Downtown** Jun 13  
Downtown
- **Independence Parade** Jul 3  
On Cross Street, 11:00 am

## NORMAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD 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](http://www.normalpark.org).

## 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, [listserv@normalpark.org](mailto:listserv@normalpark.org) or visit [normalpark.org](http://normalpark.org).

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

## 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 visit [www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org).



**Lisa Zuber**

*Your Local Source for Hexabits*

Individual • Commercial • Educational



1005 Pearl St, Ypsilanti MI 48197  
734-484-0372 (home)

[lzuber@ameritech.net](mailto:lzuber@ameritech.net)



# NPNA NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004, 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Every year the first Saturday of June in Normal Park means yard sale. It is the main fundraising event for the Normal Park Neighborhood Association.

An \$8.00 registration fee will get your home included on a neighborhood map with descriptions of your items for sale. Your registration fee allows the NPNA to place newspaper ads, post signs at the boundaries of our neighborhood, and distribute 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. You keep all the money you make.

Send your registration form in by Friday, May 28, so your sale can be listed on the map. You can use the form below or print one from the NPNA website at [www.normalpark.org](http://www.normalpark.org).

Send the form by mail or drop off at: NPNA Yard Sale, c/o Rebecca Dunkle, 922 Pearl St, [treasurer@normalpark.org](mailto:treasurer@normalpark.org).

Checks should be made payable to **NPNA**.



✂ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list items you would like to have printed on the map (e.g. furniture, books, antiques, toys, miscellaneous household items)

---

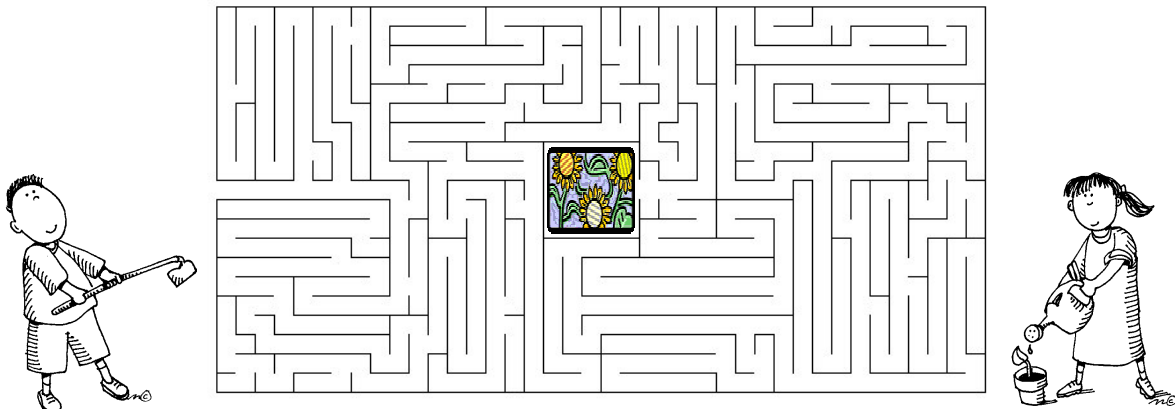


---



---

NORMAL PARK WORD SEARCH		
BIKE	NPNA	L C D M P A N Q I F O N G C F
CONGRESS	OAKWOOD	E J O O J E N T F R A O N R E
CROSS	PARADE	W D O N D R N P H E K I I O K
DEPOT	PARK	D L A R G A E Y N I W T R S I
FLOWERS	POOL	T E A R L R S W M G O A P S B
FREIGHTHOUSE	RECREATION	M G P I A D E U O H O E S B Q
GARDEN	SOCCER	J K S O L P F S Q T D R U C W
HEFLEY	SPRING	Z P E V T I W V S H R C A M N
MICHIGAN	WATERTOWER	Y K R A P L A M R O N E R I F
NORMALPARK	YPSILANTI	M I C H I G A N I U T R T L V
		Y E L F E H Q J Y S Q E O A C
		J Z T X Q S O C C E R W N P W
		D M M H L V U P I A E X E Y J
		Q B G U Q P H Y K R O U P N O
		Y U B S O A H L S J Z R S M Y



Its time to work on the garden. Can you help Ned and Lauren get to the garden in the center?

## NATIONAL SCRAPBOOK DAY CELEBRATION – MAY 7 AND 8

Best Western Executive Plaza - Jackson Road in Ann Arbor

Friday - 5 pm - 11 pm

Saturday - 9 am - 9 pm



The cost is \$60 per person and includes an large table with chairs to crop on, Prizes, Drawings, Scrapbook Bingo, Snacks, unlimited Pop, Coffee, and Tea, Lunch *and* Dinner on Saturday.

Register by April 29<sup>th</sup> and receive a BONUS COUPON towards scrapbook supplies!

Rooms for the night are \$59/room and include breakfast for every one registered at the Best Western. Call the Best Western directly and ask for the Creative Memories Block of rooms. Their number is 734.665.4444.

The big scrapbooking area will be locked down at 11 pm on Friday and reopened at 9 am on Saturday. So you won't have to pack up and set up the next day!

Can't make it that weekend? Call me and I'll email you the dates for upcoming scrap book Crop -n- Shops. Or stop by May 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> to shop.

To register please call your Normal Park Neighbor, Diana Cass at 734.320.1465.