



npna

normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

newsletter :: summer 2005

NPNA Ice Cream Social

Where: Community/Senior Center Rec Park
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2005
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Program: Ice Cream, Meeting Neighbors, and Fun

NPNA ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Wednesday, August 3, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm the NPNA is holding its 9th annual Ice Cream Social in the Rose Garden behind the Community/Senior Center in Recreation Park

It is time, once again, for the wonderful NPNA Ice Cream Social. We love this event because it brings folks together in ways that our other events don't.

Our quarterly meetings tend to attract neighbors who are interested in specific topics, from city planning to parking changes to understanding how Normal Park residents can improve the health of the Huron River. Our new neighborhood events, like the Night of Lights and the NPNA Yard & Garden Tour get folks out and about in the neighborhood, meeting and learning from each other in ways that help foster understanding and friendships. Our Halloween Parade brings out the children (and their parents!) for an afternoon of wonderful fun.

Each and every one of these events is important to fostering a true sense of community and is of interest and fun to the participants. But the Ice Cream Social, in some wonderful way, ties all of these things together. Perhaps it's the time of year: summer time! Perhaps it's the venue: the Rose Garden, a garden grown and tended by the loving hands of a few dedicated neighbors for all to enjoy. Perhaps it's simply the offerings: ICE CREAM! Whatever the reason, the Ice Cream Social brings out all different kinds of neighbors, young, old, some with kids, some without, for an evening of tasty treats, informal conversation, games for kids, and simple pleasure.

Please join us on August 3rd for some ice cream and to bid a very fond farewell to the neighbor responsible for the event over the past few years, **Christine Obeid**. Christine and her children, Chloe and Griffin, will be moving away from Normal Park in August. They will be deeply missed.

INCREASED NPNA ADVOCACY: IMPROVEMENTS TO MANSFIELD STREET

The NPNA Board has made a conscious decision to become more actively involved in city, township, and even county matters as they pertain to the health and well being of Normal Park and its neighbors. To that end, we have been working to address the long overdue improvements to Mansfield, a street that is split in terms of ownership and responsibility between the City and the Township.

Mansfield has been the subject of many complaints over the years related to excessive speeding and noise violations. The street is filled with numerous potholes and lacks defined curbs. There is a complete absence of crosswalk striping at school intersections, which is a serious safety hazard for the numerous Estabrook and West Middle students who cross it daily.

Over the past months, the NPNA board has been working with concerned neighbors to advocate for much-needed improvements to the street. In May, the board wrote a letter to City Council Members John Gawlas and Bill Nickels urging Council to consider immediate pedestrian-friendly improvements to Mansfield, including:

- Crosswalk striping at all school crossings.
- Curbs improvements to show distinction between street and sidewalk.
- Repair of existing sidewalks and the addition of a new sidewalk to the west side of the street.
- A bike lane to narrow lanes and slow traffic.
- Landscaping public land with taller plants closer to the road to slow traffic.

Realizing that many of these improvements may take some time to implement, a group of Normal Park residents has planned a landscaping project on the small turn-around island where Westmoorland dead-ends into school property in an effort to instigate immediate change. This small project would work to beautify the street, as well as provide a traffic-calming element to a part of the street notorious for speeding traffic. Because this property is split between the City and the Township, NPNA Board members Jenna Bacolor and Sarah Weiss, along with neighbor **Andrea Webber** met with Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Ruth Ann Jammick in late March to discuss the idea and received her enthusiastic approval.

Both the City and the Township now know about the neighborhood's concerns regarding Mansfield. Red tape related to Township/City responsibility for the street, as well as how the street is zoned, makes improvements more difficult than would be the case in other solely city-owned or township-owned areas. Nonetheless, improvements must be made and the NPNA Board will continue working and advocating for change.

For more information on the myriad economic, health, and social benefits related to street improvements and walk-ability, we invite you to check out the activeliving.org website.

Lisa Wozniak and Joe Capuano, Co-Presidents

CAROL LEYSHOCK OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

After serving for fifteen years on our NPNA board, Carol Leyshock has stepped down. She and her husband, Rick, have lived on Congress St. since 1978 and their children grew up playing across the street in Recreation Park. In the 1980's the park began to suffer from neglect and was frequently used as a hangout for illicit activities and neighbors avoided using it.

In 1995, the NPNA joined with the Ypsilanti Recreation Department to create the Recreation Park Restoration Committee with Carol as its chairperson. She felt a personal involvement and wanted the park to once again be a place where families wanted to spend time.

The committee made plans for improving the park and was aided by the volunteer contributions of neighbor, Lee Thurston, a professional landscaper. Its efforts were helped greatly by the involvement of the Director of Parks and Recreation, Amy McMillan, and the City, which had enough resources to get things done. Because of this, the restoration project moved ahead.

Under Carol's guidance the NPNA launched a fund-raising campaign to finance the planned improvements. It began with a door-to-door drive to every home to request donations. Neighbors provided the time and energy to raise more than \$9000. Additional fundraisers including a can and bottle drive, a golf outing, bark in the park, along with a contribution from Ypsilanti School District, netted over \$40,000.

With these funds and some money from city obtained grants, much has been accomplished. In 1997 the city transformed the playground area, replacing the old equipment with a new play structure, swings, sandbox and a walking path. The fence was removed between the park and the Chappelle School playground. And in 1999, the city demolished the cement brick walls at the back of the picnic shelter and on Ypsi Pride Day, NPNA neighbors painted the structure.

When the director of Parks & Recreation left her position and was not replaced, Carol felt responsible for getting all the planned improvements completed. Through her perseverance and leadership the original plan was completed when a jogging path was finished in 2003 and the brick plaza with a bench and commemorative bricks was built in 2004.

In 2002 Carol succeeded in getting the unsightly fence around the tennis courts taken down. In 2003 the area was used as the staging area for the street improvements. Carol spearheaded a neighborhood survey, which led to its restoration as a multipurpose hard surface.

Carol believes that the success of this restoration project shows how much impact citizens can have on the quality of life of where they live. She is proof that it takes real focus to accomplish such large-scale projects. And, as is so often true, this volunteer effort required a tremendous amount of work from just a few people. But it would not have happened at all without the leadership and determination that Carol provided.

Carol isn't through doing her part in making our neighborhood a better place to live. She and Rick continue to care for the Rose Garden as they have done since 1997.

Thank you Carol.

COMMUNITY GARDENS GROW

Inspired in part by the success of the Recreation Park Community Garden (RPCG) in 2004, two new gardens were constructed in or near Normal Park this spring: Midtown Community Garden and West Middle School Community Garden. Demand for space at all three gardens has been high, with a total of about 100 community members gardening at the three locations. All three garden sites are participating in the "Plant a Row for the Hungry" campaign, with dedicated growing space for produce that will be donated to Food Gatherers. Growing Hope, a local non-profit gardening organization, has provided technical assistance to both new gardens.

Located near the corner of Congress and Normal Streets, the Midtown Community Garden is the result of a partnership between the Midtown Neighborhood



Association, Dawn Farm and Growing Hope. With the wonderful flowerbed surrounding it, Midtown is a charming garden comprised of raised cedar beds.

As a school-based community garden, the West Middle School site has provided new opportunities for partnership. Growing Hope has been working with WMS for the past year on a range of projects, including a greenhouse, the community garden, and an after school gardening program. The school agreed to allow a community garden to be built behind the school on a large sunny plot of land. This area provided enough space for 14 full size plots and 4 half plots, making this the largest of the three community gardens. Numerous volunteers from the Normal Park neighborhood helped remove sod, measure and prepare the plots and build a fence with an entrance arbor. Four Normal Park residents are managing the garden on an on-going basis.

The WMS garden provides many opportunities for school-neighborhood communication and partnership. This spring, West Middle School students grew seedlings in the greenhouse and transplanted them to the community garden behind the school. Youth in a Growing Hope-sponsored after-school program are tending two plots in the garden over the summer.

In its second growing season, the Recreation Park Community Garden is going strong with a blend of old and new gardeners. This year, plots were reconfigured to offer more growing space and more native plants have been added to the border around the fence.

On July 25, at 7:00 pm, there will be a walking tour of all three gardens starting at the Midtown Garden. The public is invited to see what is growing, different growing methods, and how community gardening works in three different settings. For more information, contact Jenna Bacolor at 483-1647 or bacolorj@ewashtenaw.org.

For more information about Growing Hope, visit growinghope.net.

PARKING UPDATE

The City has restructured its street parking times to create consistency within the City. After both an online and a paper survey, the NPNA recommended the following streets be a residential permit-parking zone: Cross, Oakwood, Hiawatha, Elm, Sheridan, Sherman (to Hiawatha), and Owendale north of Cross. These streets as of August 1 will be residential parking by permit only, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

You can purchase a residential permit at City Hall for \$27 which includes one visitor's pass. Each additional residential permit is \$17 for same address. One additional visitor's pass can be purchased for \$10. A driver's licence showing resident address or other proof of residency (e.g., a utility bill along w/picture ID) is required. If you are having an event during regular enforcement hours, please call the Ypsilanti Police Department at least five (5) days prior to the event, specifying location, date and times.

Fines for violation of the residential parking permit zone is \$50 for first offense. Violators are also subject to tow. Parking signs will note that these are tow-away zones, however, this will generally be method of last resort.

A traffic control order will be placed for designating Owendale Street between Cross and Washtenaw as "No Parking". This item is not specifically part of the residential parking program, but a request by the majority of property owners on Owendale to totally prohibit on-street parking.

A map of the restricted streets is available at the City's website at www.cityofypsilanti.com.

REC PARK UPDATE

NPNA board members continue to keep in touch with Ypsilanti DPW about issues effecting Recreation Park. The basketball rims have been replaced with a new model designed to withstand greater usage, however it is tempting to hang on these orange rings. If you see any mis-use, please contact the police immediately.

Stay tuned for other site improvement projects that are in the works for the park area, such as reviving the shuffleboard courts and creating a picnic patio.

THE POOL IS OPEN!

The pool is now open for regular summer hours.

The American Red Cross is sponsoring the morning swim classes that have been so popular, Swim Team is back and Saturday beginner swim classes are being offered.

New this summer, our local pool is offering several varieties of water activities for all ages. For teens there will be 2 teen nights, Thursday July 21st and Tuesday August 16th, from 8-9 pm. For adults there will two theme nights, "the 50's" on Thursday July 21st and "Candlelight dinner and swimming" on Sunday August 21st. For those seeking aerobic activity, there will be inner tube Water Polo and Water Volleyball from 8-9 pm on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and Water aerobics from 8-9:30 am on Fridays and Saturdays. And for you dog lovers, the "Dog's day" event will be held again at the end of the pool season. The pool can also be reserved for private parties.

For information call 482-4401 or stop by the pool.


NEIGHBORHOOD YPSI-PRIDE ACTIVITIES

We had fabulous participation and gorgeous weather for the 10th annual Ypsi Pride day on Saturday the 21st of May. The scope of the volunteer efforts has expanded beyond the early goals of basic clean up and has grown to include small construction projects such as fence and bench building, painting, and substantial landscaping.

Neighbors turned out in record numbers to work in the garden beds around the perimeter of the Senior Center, in the Rose Garden, around the playground area of Rec Park, at the Rutherford Pool, at Hefley Park (note the freshly painted sign!), in the various end caps and neighborhood garden beds, and building the fence for the West Middle School Garden. The neighborhood schools also organized beautification projects. Be sure to note the remarkable landscaping in the front of West Middle School.

We want to acknowledge some of the site captains who helped make this effort running smoothly: **Rick and Carol Leyshock** and the Ypsilanti Garden Club for their work in the Rose Garden; **Lisa Wozniak** for the Senior Center landscape; **Lisa Bashert** of the Community Gardeners; **Cathy Thorburn, Eric Rudolph, Bonnie Cervantes, and David Bates** (for a clever bench design) at the Pool; The **Sylvester** family at the playground area; **Mary Skiver** at Edith Hefley Park; the **Paskus** and **Webber** Families for their work on restoring the Westmoorland endcaps; the many individuals who continue to care for Wallace and Congress end caps; and **Jenna Bacolor** and **Sarah Weiss** for arranging the volunteer installation of a handsome fence around the West Middle School Garden. Kudos to the Roots and Shoots gardening program for all the youthful assistants they brought to this last project.

Thanks to everyone who came out to help. We had well over 100 community members at our neighborhood parks and gardens showing we do have Pride in Ypsilanti.



DR. KATHLEEN DVORAK
Chiropractic Physician

DR. LINDA S. BERRY, Chiropractic Physician
RENÉE RUTZ, Massage Therapist
LISA DARROW, Massage Therapist
KIRSTEN MOWREY, Massage Therapist

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Friends Welcome

HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

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

214 Oakwood	\$144,900
1226 S Congress	\$149,000
1217 Sherman	\$165,000
1123 S Congress	\$168,500
957 W Cross	\$169,900
1128 N Congress	\$169,900
1101 Pearl	\$174,900
304 N Wallace	\$178,000
1304 N Congress	\$179,900
1129 S Congress	\$184,900
100 N Wallace	\$189,900
481 Owendale	\$194,000
1219 Grant	\$204,900
1219 Westmoorland	\$213,935
201 Oakwood	\$215,000
314 Hiawatha	\$217,000
472 N Mansfield	\$219,500
915 Sherman Ct	\$224,900
93 Oakwood	\$224,900
924 N Congress	\$229,900
1008 Cross	\$239,000
1006 W Cross	\$239,900
1205 Westmoorland	\$249,000
1505 W Cross	\$254,900
210 Oakwood	\$398,900

The following homes have sold recently:

316 Hiawatha	\$173,000
1207 Sherman	\$189,000
1201 Pearl	\$194,000
105 Oakwood	\$203,500
1209 Westmoorland	\$220,000
1218 Westmoorland	\$220,000
1113 Westmoorland	\$243,500

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



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.

NPNA NEIGHBORHOOD EMAIL

Sign up to receive our moderated neighborhood emails containing neighborhood updates, announcements, and other local news items. It's a nice supplement to the newsletter. To receive emails send your email address to Rebecca Dunkle, listserv@normalpark.org or visit normalpark.org.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more and up to date information see normalpark.org

- **Summer Beer Festival** Jul 23
Frog Island Park, 1:00 – 6:00 pm
- **NPNA Ice Cream Social** Aug 3
Senior Center, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- **Ypsi Heritage Festival** Aug 19
Riverside Park
- **City Wide Neighborhood Picnic** Aug 27
Recreation Park, 12:00 – 3:00 pm
- **Fire Truck Muster** Aug 27
Riverside Park
- **Festival Latino** Sep 17
Riverside Park

2005 BOARD MEMBERS/CHAIRPERSONS

Co-President:	Lisa Wozniak	483-5013
Co-President/	Joe Capuano	483-6091
Newsletter/Website:		
Treasurer:	Rebecca Dunkle	482-9330
Secretary/	Sarah Weiss	480-1823
Greenscape Chair:		
Community Garden:	Jenna Bacolor	483-1647
Economic Development:	Patrick McLean	485-5852
New Neighbor:	Kristi Coulter	547-0620
Zoning/Ordinance:	Kirsten Mowrey	483-6811
At-large members:	Heather Benoit	481-0726
	Sue Collins	483-6609
	Ariel Moore	483-0122
	Bea Otis	482-8567

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 NEIGHBORHOOD WEB SITE

Keep up to date on the latest information and events happening in our neighborhood and city. Check it out at normalpark.org.

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 normalpark.org.

SPECIAL THANKS

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



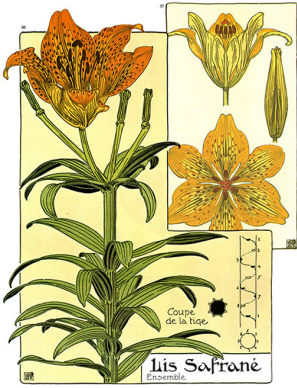
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NORMAL PARK YARD AND GARDEN TOUR



For those that braved the heat on June 25 the first NPNA Yard & Garden Tour provided the opportunity to delight in the beauty of some of our neighborhood's finest yards and gardens.

The idea behind the tour is to show examples of how individuals create special spaces in their yards and in our community. The focus is not on the flowers and plants by themselves but how they work together to create a sense of place.

This year's tour consisted of eight stops. They covered a range from very private spaces to a working community garden. A great deal of thanks go to the homeowners for their hard work and for allowing us the chance to view the splendor of their yards and gardens: **Jim and Mary Baker, Vicki Patterson and Paul Mayes, Willard and Bea Otis, Sue Stickel, Melissa Armstrong and Michael Grant, Craig Hupy and Marie Lemmer,** and to **Rick Leyschock** for helping at the Recreation Park Community Garden and the Rose Garden at the Senior Center.

Special thanks go to **Sarah Weiss** for visiting each stop and writing the descriptions that were published in the guide, **Lisa Headings** for using her amazing sewing talents in the signs, and **Paul Mayes** for getting the participation of our homeowners.

We are looking forward to next year.

ANNUAL NPNA YARD SALE

Many people look forward to the Normal Park annual yard sale. And from the crowds on June 4th they showed up. Hundreds of eager customers filled out neighborhood.

Besides giving us all a chance to do some spring-cleaning and make a little money, the yard sale is the main source of income for the NPNA. These funds go to support projects and events.

Thanks to **Rebecca Dunkle** for coordinating everything that makes our yard sale a success. She again provided maps of the neighborhood with all the registered households located and a brief description of what they were selling.

Thanks to everyone who participated - it was a true neighborhood-wide effort with great rewards for everyone.

CHAD PRATT PAINT



Interior/Exterior 734.260.7694

SUMMER MANNERS

Now that summer is here, we are all spending a great deal more time outside. In the interest of neighborliness, we would like to refresh everyone on the City's noise and property ordinances.

With regards to noise, the general rule of thumb is that it not "disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons." This means excessive noise from construction, music, and animals are prohibited after 10 pm and before 7 am during the week, and after 6 pm and before 9 am on Sunday. Regarding lawns and landscaping, you may not obstruct the visibility for traffic and your grass may not grow over 10 inches in height. We wish you all a happy summer in our great outdoors.

SUMMER PICNIC IN THE PARK

Mark your calendars for the 2nd annual city-wide neighborhood associations' picnic on Saturday, August 27, from 12:00 to 3:00 pm, in Recreation Park. Sponsored by CoPAC (the Community Policing Action Council), the picnic is in our neighborhood this year. It is free and open to all, with free food, fun and games.

Don't miss this chance to meet neighbors from throughout the city, take a close-up look at police and fire department vehicles, and much more.

The NPNA is co-hosting the event this year and could use volunteers to help with games for the kids; to lend (or staff) a gas grill; help with set up and clean up, and more. Contact Rebecca Dunkle if you would like to help out: rdunkle@umich.edu, 482-9330 or 936-2379

THE NPNA NEEDS YOU

Interested in being more involved in the Normal Park neighborhood? The NPNA is always seeking volunteers. You can run for elected office, join the board, or help make our events run smoothly. Please contact **Kirsten Mowrey** at 483-6811 or any board member if you are interested.



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 Or 1-800-222-1222

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NPNA ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Wednesday, August 3
6:00 to 7:30 pm

Meet Neighbors, Eat Ice Cream,
 Have Fun!

In the Rose
 Garden by the
 Senior Center in
 Rec Park



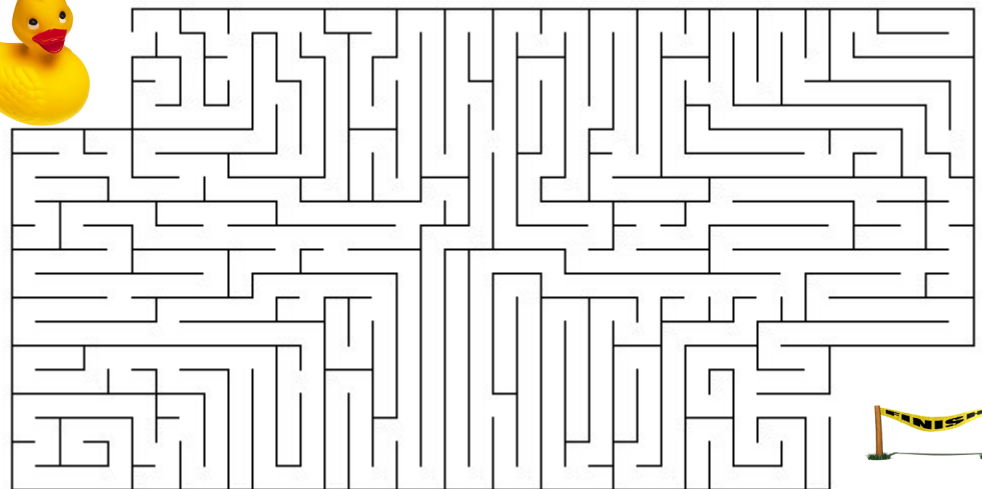
SUMMER TIME IN YPSILANTI WORD SEARCH

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