



# npna

normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

newsletter :: autumn 2005

## General Meeting Information

**Where:** Senior Citizen Center Rec Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2005  
**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
**Speakers:** Jacob Corvidae  
**Program:** Focus on Home Energy Efficiency

## NPNA GENERAL MEETING

The next NPNA General Meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, October 26th at the Senior/Community Center in Recreation Park.

With energy prices expected to rise to record levels this winter, opening your utility bill in the coming months may become a profile in courage. Yet even with rising prices, there are steps you can take to limit the increase in the cost of heating your house. Our featured guest speaker for October, Jacob Corvidae, the Green Programs Manager of WARM in Detroit, will talk to us about home energy efficiency and ways to keep your utility dollars from literally going out the window.

WARM promotes the development of resource efficient, affordable, healthy homes and communities through education, training and technical assistance. It began as an employment and training program teaching people weatherization and basic construction skills. The initials WARM stood for Weatherization And Retrofit Maintenance. Today WARM only uses the acronym. In the past ten years WARM has increasingly become a technical assistance resource for nonprofit organizations building and rehabilitating affordable housing.



While the focus of WARM has been on affordable housing, the organization also works to provide workshops and training to community groups interested in energy efficiency. The training offers basic advice on ways to reduce energy usage and how to use sustainable “green materials” in making a house more energy efficient.

For more information about WARM, go to their website at [warmtraining.org](http://warmtraining.org), and be sure to join us on October 26 for what promises to be an interesting and financially rewarding presentation.

## GAS PRICES TOO HIGH? SHOP LOCALLY!

Do you know that we have a full service hardware store in downtown Ypsilanti? Right down the street? At 111 Pearl Street is Congdon's Ace Hardware. They have been there since the 1920s. The present owners, Paul Shemon and Don Britton,

grew up in Normal Park, across the street from each other in the 1100 block of Grant.

Not only can you get all of the products and services that are available in the bigger stores, you get friendly and truly experienced help to get your job done. They also do high-quality; reasonably priced custom window screens, lawnmower repairs, and a whole lot more.

Next time you are out doing your Saturday errands, skip the crowded trip along Washtenaw and points west, and go downtown instead. Coffee shops, school supplies at Frank's Drugs on Michigan Ave, the Michigan Avenue branch of the library, the Farmer's Market, and the Food Co-op equal a great Saturday and you didn't have to leave Ypsilanti.

## SECOND ANNUAL NIGHT OF LIGHTS, DECEMBER 3

Normal Park's second annual 'Night of Lights' begins at 6:00 pm on Saturday, December 3rd. Welcome the holiday season with luminaries, cider, and the company of your neighbors.

Once again the NPNA will be selling luminary kits as a fundraiser. For information on ordering, prices, and pick-up dates, see the flyer accompanying this newsletter or check the Normal Park website at [normalpark.org](http://normalpark.org). If you would like to help with Night of Lights, please contact Heather Benoit at 481-0726 or email [herat.habenoit@med.umich.edu](mailto:herat.habenoit@med.umich.edu).

## HALLOWEEN PARADE, OCTOBER 29

On Saturday, October 29, the NPNA is sponsoring our second Halloween Parade. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to join the parade and show off their costumes.

We will meet at West Middle school front lawn, go down Grant, turn right on Oakwood then on to the Senior Center where we will have refreshments and give out prizes for the best costumes.



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The NPNA Ice Cream Social, which took place on Wednesday, August 3rd, was an enormous success! This event is typically very popular among our neighbors—time with friends, activities for kids, and yummy treats!—but this year seemed to surpass others in terms of the sheer number of people in attendance. Close to 200 folks passed through the gathering that evening, including our two city council members, **John Gawlas** and **Bill Nickels**, and Mayor Farmer, as well as an Ypsilanti Press reporter and an accompanying photographer.


Many thanks to **Kristi Coulter** for her outstanding work organizing the event. Thanks are also due to **Ariel Moore**, a.k.a. the balloon and tattoo queen; **John Sindelar**, who dashed out to get more ice cream when the crowds got thick; **Eric Moore** who helped with lots of last minute details; **Zach and Ben Simon** who helped with the kids' activities; **Kate Jackson, Kirsten Mowrey, Stacey Fallis, Susan Gregory**, and **Lisa Wozniak** for scooping ice cream; and the Little Red Store for their generous donation of two beautifully delicious cakes.

## YOGA


NPNA is offering yoga classes again this fall. Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Karen Beerli is teaching a seven-week beginner/intermediate class at the Recreation Park Senior Center. Participants are welcome to sign up for the full seven weeks at the cost of \$65 or drop in when possible at the cost of \$10 per class. The dates of the classes are October 13 & 27; November 3 & 10; and December 1, 8 & 22. Apologies for the disjointed schedule due to scheduling conflicts at the Senior Center.

This is a great opportunity to relax, stretch, get in shape, and connect with your neighbors as the long dark days of winter approach.

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## THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY GARDENING SEASON

*Gardens are the first sign of commitment to a community. When people plant corn they are saying, let's stay here. And by their connection to the land, they are connected to one another.*

- Anne Raver, New York Times Garden Columnist

Almost one hundred people from the Normal Park, Midtown, and other neighborhoods became more connected to their community and to their food this season by gardening at one of our three local community gardens – Recreation Park, Midtown, and West Middle School. Many friendships were formed, gardening tips were shared, and vegetables and herbs were enjoyed through their efforts.

Unfortunately, two gardens – Midtown and West Middle School – drew the attention of vandals. At Midtown, a thief stole many perennial flowers and some vegetable plants. He was eventually caught and no further vandalism has occurred. At West Middle School, a plot full of pumpkins proved too enticing for vandals to pass. Besides throwing several pumpkins on the school, the vandals also destroyed some gardeners' trellises and a few vegetable plants. Although these vandals were not caught, no further damage has occurred at this garden either.

Despite the vandalism, lack of rain, and a few issues with bugs, all three gardens grew a bounty of vegetables, herbs and flowers. This year's Plant a Row for the Hungry program, which featured drop-off nights at each garden, netted over 220 pounds of fresh produce for Food Gatherers. Each garden dedicated at least one plot to PAR and many individual gardeners also contributed from their plots. Gardeners celebrated their efforts at an all-garden Harvest Party on October 16.

Garden organizers are already planning for the 2006 growing season. The registration deadline for a plot will be March 5, 2006. Forms and guidelines will be available on the Normal Park website in the late winter. For more information, call Jenna Bacolor at 483-1647 or [communitygarden@normalpark.org](mailto:communitygarden@normalpark.org).

### “SEED TO HARVEST” CLASSES

Growing Hope, Ypsilanti's non-profit agency dedicated to improving people's lives through gardening, continues to offer classes through its Seed to Harvest class series. All classes are held at the Senior Center at 1015 Congress Street.

Upcoming classes and dates:

- Botanical Holiday Gifts: Bath Teas and Herbal Facial Toner: Monday, November 14, 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- How to Make a Pinecone Wreath: Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Children are welcome at the classes. A snack is provided. Please call (734) 786-8401 to reserve a space in a class. A donation of \$1.00 to \$12.00 is requested for each class. For more information visit their website at [growinghope.net](http://growinghope.net).

## CALLING ALL SENIORS

You are invited to join our activities at the Ypsilanti Senior Citizen Center on Congress Steet in Recreation Park. We are open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and we have a van for free transportation within the City limits.

Activities include cards: Euchre, Bridge, Pinochle, Canasta, etc. Bingo is Wednesday at 1:00 pm. come in time to pick a winning card. You pay per card, but you win CASH. We have Tai Chi, exercise, movies, a pool table and pot lucks. We need someone to play our Baby Grand Piano. Please share your talent with us.

We serve lunches Monday through Friday at 12 noon. For Seniors 60 and over, a \$2.50 donation is suggested. Meals are nutritious with lots of variety.

We also have two events coming up in November and December. Both are fundraisers to help keep the Senior Center open.

On Friday, November 18, at 5:00 pm we are having a Baked Good Auction and Potluck. Bring a baked good (cake, pie, cookies, etc.) to donate and a dish to pass. Auction begins at 5:00 pm with the potluck following.

On Monday, December 5, at 5:00 pm we are celebrating our 44th Anniversary. Plans are well underway for this "members only" event including a caterer and musical entertainment.

Please come and join us. And drop by the Senior Center to pick up a Newsletter and check us out. Senior Center newsletters are available in the office. There are LARGE PRINT COPIES too.

For information call 483-5014 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

## SPECIAL THANKS

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




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## HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

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

1121 Grant	\$148,900
1123 Congress S	\$158,500
1112 Congress N	\$159,900
957 Cross W	\$163,900
960 Cross W	\$163,900
1101 Pearl	\$169,900
1304 Congress N	\$169,900
100 N Wallace	\$184,900
1129 Congress S	\$184,900
481 Owendale	\$189,000
1309 Congress N	\$189,900
911 Grant	\$189,900
966 West Cross W	\$189,900
1215 Pearl	\$190,000
1105 Pearl	\$194,900
459 Anna	\$199,900
924 Congress N	\$199,900
93 Oakwood	\$199,900
121 Linden Court	\$207,500
201 Oakwood	\$209,900
1204 Congress N	\$209,990
909 Pearl	\$224,900
915 Sherman Ct	\$224,900
1205 Westmoorland	\$239,000
1208 Congress N	\$239,900
1124 Pearl Street	\$244,900
1505 Cross W	\$254,900
907 Pleasant	\$279,900
913 Pleasant Drive	\$279,900
210 Oakwood	\$329,900

The following homes have sold recently:

1217 Sherman	\$ 162,000
1128 Congress N	\$ 169,900
1115 Grant	\$ 172,900
304 Wallace N	\$ 174,000
1108 Pearl	\$ 183,000
1219 Grant	\$ 190,000
917 Grant	\$ 190,000
1201 Pearl S	\$ 194,000
472 Mansfield N	\$ 200,000
1307 Congress N	\$ 202,000
1219 Westmoorland	\$ 206,500
916 Grant	\$ 220,000
306 Elm	\$ 221,000
1008 Cross Street	\$ 232,000
212 Mansfield N	\$ 345,000

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



## 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](http://normalpark.org).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- **NPNAGeneral Meeting** Oct 26  
Senior Center, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- **Downtown Halloween Fall Festival** Oct 28  
Downtown Ypsilanti
- **Normal Park Halloween Parade** Oct 29  
Normal Park Neighborhood, 3:30 pm
- **Senior Center Baked Goods Auction & Potluck** Nov 18  
Senior Center, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- **NPNA Night of Lights** Dec 3  
Normal Park Neighborhood, 6:00 pm
- **Senior Center Anniversary Dinner** Dec 5  
Senior Center, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- **New Year Jubilee** Dec 31

## 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:	Joe Schultz	484-1314
At-large members:	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.

## 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](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 [npna@umich.edu](mailto:npna@umich.edu).

## 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](http://normalpark.org).