



normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

spring 2006

General Meeting Information

Where: Community/Senior Center Rec Park

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Program: Ypsilanti Public Schools

Speaker: Superintendent James Hawkins and Public

Relations Director Emma Jackson

NPNA GENERAL MEETING

The next NPNA General Meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, April 26, 2006, at the Community/Senior Center in Recreation Park.

The focus of this meeting will be the strengths of the Ypsilanti Public Schools, with special guests Superintendent James Hawkins and Public Relations Director Emma Jackson.

As more young families move into the Normal Park neighborhood, there is increasing interest in the quality of our area schools. With Chapelle Elementary buttressing the south side of our neighborhood and the Estabrook Elementary/West Middle School/Ypsilanti High School complex on our west side, Normal Park has extraordinary access to the Ypsilanti school system.

Yet, there are many things that the majority of the NPNA residents don't know in regards to the schools in their own backyard. For example, did you know that the Ypsilanti school system has established partnerships with EMU, U-M, Pfizer and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital? Did you know that there are advanced placement classes and dual enrollment options available at EMU and WCC? Did you know that despite the financial crisis that the school system faced last year (and continues to face) art, music, Spanish and drama are taught in ALL elementary schools?

The number one determining factor in home buying decisions is the quality of the area schools. As we all work to make our neighbor and Ypsilanti a more attractive and enticing place for people to live, it behooves us to not only understand the strengths and challenges facing our school system, but to develop solid relationships with the leadership team.

Whether you have a child in the school system or not, an evening with Dr. Hawkins and Ms. Jackson is sure to be an important first step in creating a better, more consistent dialogue between NPNA and the Ypsilanti Public Schools. As leaders of NPNA we certainly look forward to this opportunity. We hope that you will join us on April 26th both to learn more about our schools and to vote for a new slate of leaders for the 2006-07 NPNA executive team.

Lisa Wozniak and Joe Capuano, Co-presidents

THE SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER REMAINS OPEN

We are happy to report that the Senior/Community Center received the first of two \$10,000 checks from the Anna Botsford Bach Home Fund for Seniors through the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. The funds were provided as a match to the \$10,000 the Senior Friends group pledged to raise from the community, and we appreciate the generous donations from our Normal Park neighbors that helped make it possible. In conjunction with Washtenaw County support for the lunch program and rental fees collected for use of the Center, we will be able to keep the Center to stay open through 2006.

This will give us the time needed to re-group, reorganize and develop the partnerships and funding sources that will sustain the Senior/Community Center as a resource for the entire community in the years ahead.

We invite all of the seniors in the Normal Park Neighborhood to take advantage of the many free programs at the Center, including lunch served daily at 11:45 (donation suggested, \$2.50 for seniors, \$5.00 for guests under age 60), weekly Tai Chi and Fitness/Flexibility exercise programs, a Cooking Class, the newly rejuvenated Green Thumb Garden Club, weekly cards and bingo, and the newly launched Walking Club.

Neighbors are encouraged to continue to support the fundraising efforts at the Center, including the first annual Rock-a-thon on Saturday afternoon, April 29, 1-5 pm. People of all ages are welcome to have fun rocking, enjoying music and refreshments, and spend time chatting with our special guests. (Thanks to those of you who have already offered to loan rocking chairs!) The Women's Council of the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce is making the Senior Center the recipient of proceeds from its annual geranium sale. We also will be participating in the NPNA annual yard sale again this year, and holding our annual Corn Roast in August.

Current Senior/Community Center hours are 10 am - 2 pm, Monday-Friday, with a quilting class on Saturday 10 - noon. The Center is also available for rental for the modest fee of \$30/hr for parties, club meetings, receptions, etc. Stop in to meet our new Senior Center Coordinator, Monica Prince, 483-5014 or ypsiseniorcenter@umich.edu



NEIGHBORHOOD YPSI PRIDE ACTIVITIES SATURDAY, MAY 20

Ypsilanti PRIDE (People Restoring Image & Developing the Environment) is celebrating its 11th anniversary this year with volunteer projects being organized around the city and township. Participants are asked to wear their Ypsi PRIDE shirts from prior years, as a demonstration of the ongoing efforts of community members for more than a decade. Volunteers will receive colorful wrist bands.

Be sure to reserve the date of Saturday, May 20th, so you and yours can join in the rewarding fun of community volunteering, followed by an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments at Riverside Park, from noon to 2:00 pm. Call the Ypsi PRIDE Hotline at 544-3636 for further information.

Recreation Park and adjacent park areas will be teeming with activity. This includes the Community/Senior Center, Rutherford Pool (buildings and grounds), the Community Gardens, the Rose Garden, play areas and parking lot as well as along Congress Street. Additional neighborhood project sites include Hefley Park, the landscaped end-caps on the boulevards and work at neighborhood schools such as Chapelle. Bring gloves and any appropriate gardening tools.

We are asking neighbors to serve as Site Captains for each of the specific areas noted below. Please call Sarah Weiss for details: 480-1823. (Projects suited to children are noted with an asterisk *.)

Recreation Park

- Play Area*: trash pickup, raking chips under slides and swings, spreading new chips, pruning tree suckers.
- Parking and Picnic Pavilion: Trash and stick pick-up
- Senior Center: Landscape Maintenance and flower
 planting around the building, painting the gate to the road,
 assembling/installing a bench for the front, constructing a
 raised vegie garden bed.
- **Rose Garden**: Weeding, pruning, raking, planting, spreading.
- Community Garden*: Projects to be determined. Hefley Park*: Trash pickup, weeding, planting by sign & peace pole, raking, spreading chips, cutting wild shrubs on East boundary

Congress Street: Summit to Mansfield trash pick-up.

Neighborhood Greenscape Efforts

Our neighborhood is made more interesting, walkable and even safer by the volunteers who tend the landscaped end caps on the boulevards and at the Congress "V". We want to extend our thanks for these ongoing, valuable gardening efforts. Please contact Sarah Weiss (480-1823) if you are willing to continue or are interested in tending an end cap. Plants and gardening advice is readily available.

Wallace Blvd End Caps: 2 additional volunteers needed to rake, weed, cut back dead perennials, plant new as needed, and spread mulch.

Westmoorland End Caps: 2 end caps need caretakers and we need to weed, plant new perennials and annuals, and spread wood chips

RECREATION COMMISSION UPDATE

This winter the Commission conducted several activities with a focus on supporting regional and long-term planning to develop sustainable recreation solutions.

In December, the Commission met with City Council and the Mayor in public working sessions. Among several issues the group examined was the state of recreation facilities and programs in Ypsilanti. They heard reports from the Senior Center, the Freighthouse, the Pool and Parkridge. They also discussed the City's 2007 budget and its impact on recreation.

On January 25th Eastern Michigan's Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities convened a half-day summit at WCC, entitled Recreation 2026: A Community Roundtable on Working Together to Enhance Quality of Life in Eastern Washtenaw County. The meeting was attended by over 60 people including participants from local and county government, foundations, businesses, teens, community volunteers, and four members of the Rec Commission.

Three working subcommittees were formed to address the key issues identified at the summit; Governance/Sustainable Funding; Inventory; and Equity and Access. These groups are just beginning their work to develop action plans focusing on the ideas generated at the forum. All subcommittees have met at least once. The most recent Governance/Funding subcommittee meeting featured a panel of directors from four recreation authorities presently operating in the state. They discussed feasibility studies, organizational structures, funding, staffing, articles of incorporation and other legal and marketing issues.

At the Commission's March meeting, the group began moving forward on formally planning YARD – Ypsilanti Area Recreation Development. YARD is a concept originally proposed by the Development Director of the Salvation Army as a way to create an umbrella organization that supports recreational programs in the area.

Robert Bruner and Angel Coleman, of the City, further developed the concept as a collaborative model that would pull all current recreation sites in the City together. They envisioned one organization that would focus on six areas: arts/music; education; civic engagement; community service; health/nutrition; and sports/physical activity. This organization would be responsible for fund development for all the sites and could centralize some of the operational functions under one group. Each site would have program staff responsible for activities that occurs on site.

The Commission's plan is to create a framework for the organization this spring and to engage a group of faculty/students at EMU in the development of a business plan for YARD. The Commission would then like to identify a Director who could champion the concept, by securing seed money and starting the organizational development.

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 John Weiss at weissjk@umich.edu or 480.1823, Lisa Zuber at lzuber@ameritech.net or 484.0372 or Robert Bruner, Assistant City Manager, at 483-1810 or rbruner@cityofypsilanti.com.

TRAIL CONNECTS YPSILANTI TO GALLUP PARK IN **ANN ARBOR**

Normal Park residents who bike, walk, or roller blade can enjoy a paved path that connects Ypsilanti to eastern Ann Arbor. Two newly-completed sections of the Washtenaw County park system's border-to-border non-motorized trail link with existing trails on the east side of the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital campus. One segment of the path connects directly to a path in Gallup Park in Ann Arbor, where visitors can walk or bike along the Huron River for several miles. The other segment includes two scenic overlooks along the river.

How can you get to these new paths from Normal Park?

- Cross Washtenaw north to the College Heights neighborhood.
- Enter the non-motorized trail that starts off Cornell just past Collegewood; take the trail west toward Hewitt.
- At Hewitt, turn right and follow the path north, passing the EMU stadium, to the St. Joe Hospital campus. Cross Clark and follow McAuley around the St. Joe's campus.
- On the north side of the St. Joe campus by the Senior Health Building, you will see markers for the path. There are side paths to the picnic areas, basketball courts, and a children's play structure.

- Continue on the path where it turns right onto Huron River Drive. When the path ends, you can continue to Dixboro in a bike lane.
- Turn right onto Dixboro. The Gallup Park entrance will be on your left, through a parking lot.

Now that spring is here the path will be an excellent option for some outdoor physical activity. Enjoy!

NORMAL PARK YARD AND GARDEN TOUR **JUNE 24**

Last year our inaugural tour featured some great examples of



vards and gardens in our neighborhood. Would you like to be part of the Second Normal Park Yard and Garden Tour? We are looking for volunteers to show off their yards and gardens on June 24. We would like to have eight locations on the tour.

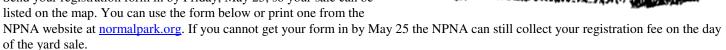
To volunteer or for more information contact Joe Capuano at 483-6091

NPNA NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006, 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Each year the first Saturday of June in Normal Park means yard sale. The Normal Park yard sale draws people from all over southeast Michigan. It is also the main fundraising event for the Normal Park Neighborhood Association.

A \$10.00 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.

Send your registration form in by Friday, May 25, so your sale can be listed on the map. You can use the form below or print one from the



Send the form by mail or drop off at: NPNA Yard Sale, c/o Rebecca Dunkle, 922 Pearl St, treasurer@normalpark.org. Checks should be made payable to NPNA

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RUTHERFORD POOL

The Friends Of Rutherford Pool (FORPool) have been meeting regularly through the cold winter months. This summer at your neighborhood pool will be full of fun, relaxation, fitness, excitement, and the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. Well hopefully not the agony of defeat.

Sunday, April 30 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm is "Pennies for the Pool". Save up all of that loose change that is just going to end up under the couch cushions and toss it all in an old milk carton or even an old shoe and bring it by the Community/Senior Center.

April 30 will also be your first chance to sign up for swim lessons, swim team, lifesaving class and to buy your family pass at last years prices. Check the price structures below as some things have changed. If you can't make it on the 30th the preseason sale will be available on Ypsilanti Pride Day and Memorial Day weekend. More program information will be available on the 30th. Check or cash only-no credit cards:

- Family Pass Pre-season (last year's price) \$110.
- Family Pass After Memorial Day \$125
- Swim Lessons First lesson \$50 next lessons \$45 each
- Individual pass \$60
- Drop in rates: Adults \$3.00, Child (1-5 pm) \$2.00, Child (6-8) \$1.50

We will be offering a gift card this year. The card can have up to 5 punches on it at a reduced rate. Children's gift card-\$8 and Adult gift card \$12. Perfect for out of town guests.

When cleaning out your garage-if you have any stackable, plastic lawn chairs that you wish to get rid off-we'll take those, too

Speaking of prices, with energy costs continuing to increase, FORPool has been forced to raise the cost of some fees. We want to reward the dedicated folks that support our pool each year so season passes will be available at last years prices until the first day of the season. Tell your friends, remind your neighbors, don't miss out on the best recreation bargain in town, for that matter the county and maybe even in the whole country. Buy your season pass early! We are working hard to keep the costs down and keep the pool accessible to the whole community. Even with the increase in fees we are still expecting to have expenses exceed revenues. Please consider getting involved in our fundraiser Candle Light Dinner by the pool, which will be Tuesday, July 18 (rain date Wednesday, July 19). Tickets will be \$30 each or 2 for \$50. Join FORPool for an evening of casual elegance as you feast poolside by candlelight. It will be a memorable evening.

The Pool will open on Friday, May 26 for Family Swim at 6:00. Pre season hours will be in effect until school is out on Friday June 9th. The regular season will open on Saturday, June 10th and include Swim lessons, Swim team, Week day lap swimming at 6:30, 12:00 and 5:00, Open swim daily from 1:00-5:00, and you can once again relax with your family at the pool in the evening from 6:00-8:00.

Lots of special events are being planned so be sure to mark your calendars early so you don't miss out on the fun. FORPool will once again sponsor a family BBQ on Wednesday, August 9th at 5:00. Grills and Lemonade provided bring your own meat and a dish to pass.

Teen nights will be Tuesday, June 20, Tuesday, July 11 and Tuesday, August 1 from 8:00-9:00. If your teen is at the pool, then you will know where they are! Adults get a night of their own too. Thursday, June 22, Thursday, July 13 and Thursday, August 3 at 8:00 come on out and join us for rousing games of Euchre, music and more. Drop in water polo will be Wednesday nights at 8:00 starting June 28 and concluding with a Barbeque on August 9. Bring the younger ones to Tot Splash to enjoy supervised play just for kids 4 and under on Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays form 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

Rutherford Pool is our community pool and is funded by your donations and patronage. Get in on the fun and help us keep our pool by participating in Pennies for the Pool, the Candle Light Dinner, volunteering or making a donation to our concessions or operation. See you poolside this summer.

By David Bates, FORPool Treasurer



NORMAL PARK RECIPES CAN HELP

My name is **Karen Bates**. I live in Normal Park. I am 11 years old and attend sixth grade at West Middle School. I have been selected to be a People to People ambassador to Hawaii.

People to People is a program established by President Eisenhower after WWII that allows students to connect directly with the culture and heritage of a destination through interactive experiences and adventures. These hands-on lessons remain with the students for a lifetime and can open doors to future opportunities, including college admissions.

To raise the funds needed to attend I am creating a cookbook of favorite recipes from the residents of Normal Park and their friends. I plan to sell the cookbooks at neighborhood events and the Senior Center and Rutherford Pool. I will share the proceeds with the neighborhood that I live in and that has been supporting me.

Advertisers are welcomed. The book will be approximately 8.5x5.5 inches with a curlex binding. Ads will cost \$20 for a full page and \$10 for a half page.

Below is the information that I would like about each recipe:

Category: Appetizer, Main Dish, Dessert, Beverage, Children's Favorite, Soup, Salad; Name of Recipe; Ingredients; Directions; Baking Temperature and Time; Serving Suggestions/combinations; Interesting facts about the recipe or origin; Name of person submitting the recipe; Number of cookbooks you are interested in buying.

You can email recipes to catabates@hotmail.com, drop it off at 1212 Sherman or call me at 485-9457 and I will come and pick it up. I hope that if you are sending a recipe you will also consider buying a cookbook. The deadline for accepting recipes is April 30.

Thank you for your support, Karen Bates.

BUS DEPOT UPDATE

Last fall, many residents of Normal Park showed up for an Ypsilanti School Board meeting to express their dismay at the board's plan to relocate the school bus garage to the prairie just west of the RCTC building near West Middle School. The school board was taken aback by the public outcry expressed by our neighbors, residents representing the Ypsilanti Township neighborhood west of the prairie/woods, members of the Ypsilanti Cross Country team, and many others.

Rather than move forward with the plan, the school board opted to create the Bus Garage Relocation Committee, which consisted of residents from the Township and City, representatives of City government and the schools, and employees of the school, including a bus driver, bus mechanic, and head grounds keeper. Normal Park was represented by Ariel Moore, John Weins and Lisa Wozniak.

Over the last four months, the Committee collected data and evaluated candidate sites for a new Transportation Facility for the Ypsilanti Public School District. The Committee looked at more than 40 properties in the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township comprising residential, commercial, and vacant land.

The criteria, formulated to be objectively applied to candidate sites in an effort to eliminate the potential for subjectivity and bias in its analysis, used by the Committee:

- Costs Relating to a Site
- Environmental Impact
- Existing Uses of the Land (and surrounding parcels)
- Practicality Proximity and Convenience
- Road Suitability

Using these criteria, the Committee eliminated most of the candidate sites, leaving a handful for comprehensive evaluation. At its final meeting, the Committee recommended that the District build its new Transportation Facility on property it already owns at LeForge and Clark in Superior Township. The Committee also recommended additional sites of special note and suggested that School Board may wish to consider three additional sites as potentially suitable candidates; two properties on Mansfield by I-94, as well as Ardis School.

The LeForge property has a number of attributes that make it well-suited as a site for a Transportation Facility:

- Owned by the District (the District is in a financial crisis)
- Existing use is compatible with a Transportation Facility
- Vegetation is neither unique, old growth, nor of significant environmental value
- Natural buffer zones can be created, minimizing impact to surrounding landowners
- Does not remove taxable land from any municipality
- Close proximity to the existing bus depot, which would require minimum route changes
- Suitable access to key roads especially as new development in the District is mainly north of site, which will make it more central as our District Grows

If any Normal Park residents have questions about the Committee, the process and/or the final recommendation made to the Board, please feel free to contact NPNA Co-President, Lisa Wozniak at 483-5013.

GARDEN RESOURCE CENTER

This spring, Growing Hope will open a new Garden Resource Center inside the Community Center in Recreation Park on Congress Street. The Center will stock a variety of gardening tools and resources, such as shovels, drills, a tiller, how-to kits, and a plethora of educational materials for all ages. For a fee of \$10.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for groups people can buy a membership to check out any of these items during the growing season. Growing Hope staff will be on hand to answer questions during set office hours. For more information please call 786-8401 or email lizzie@growinghope.net.

FROM THE GARDEN, TO THE KITCHEN, TO THE TABLE...

...the Young Chefs Club is coming soon to the Ypsilanti Community/Senior Center!

Children ages 6 and up are invited to have fun learning to grow, prepare and eat healthy food. The 2006 theme: Healthy Cooking with the new Food Pyramid!

The Young Chefs Club will meet at the Community/Senior Center on the following Wednesdays: May 10, May 31, June 7, and June 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per session or \$55.00 for all 4 sessions. Space is limited; pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

The Young Chef's Club is a fundraiser for Growing Hope, a community gardening non-profit located in Ypsilanti!

Please make checks payable to: Growing Hope.

Questions? Want a registration form? Contact the instructor, Sharon Sheldon, MPH, at (734) 544-6781.





HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

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

1123 Congress S	\$158,500
957 Cross W	\$169,000
1304 Congress N	\$169,900
966 Cross W	\$169,900
1121 Grant	\$172,900
481 Owendale	\$174,900
1309 Congress N	\$174,900
1304 Pearl	\$179,900
459 Anna	\$183,000
1129 Congress S	\$184,900
1301 Cross W	\$189,900
464 Owendale	\$189,900
1215 Pearl	\$189,900
959 Sheridan	\$192,900
201 Oakwood	\$199,000
93 Oakwood	\$199,900
314 Hiawatha	\$199,900
909 Sheridan	\$209,900
1114 Grant	\$219,000
915 Sherman Ct	\$224,900
1205 Westmoorland	\$229,000
907 Pleasant	\$249,900
1204 Congress N	\$209,990
913 Pleasant Drive	\$259,000
The following homes have sold recently:	
924 Congress	\$165,000
1105 Pearl	\$182,750
1012 Congress	\$195,500
Sue Collins, an NPNA resident and agent at	

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



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:	open			
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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more additional information visit www.normalpark.org **NPNA General Meeting** Apr 26 Community Center, Rec Park, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Rock-a-thon Apr 29 Community Center, Rec Park, 1:00 - 5:00 pm Pennies for the Pool Apr 30 Community Center, Rec Park, 12:00 - 3:00 pm **Ypsi PRIDE Day** May 20 Throughout the city; 9:00 am - 12:00 pm **Memorial Day Parade** May 29 Starts at 9:00 am **Normal Park Neighborhood Yard Sale** Jun 3 Normal Park; 9:00 am - 4:00 pm **NPNA Yard & Garden Tour** Jun 24 Normal Park; **Independence Day Parade** Jul 4 Down Cross; 11:00 am Jul 7 & 8 Michigan Elvisfest Riverside Park

SUPPORT THE NPNA

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 receives a NPNA coffee mug. Payment of cash or check made to NPNA can be given to any of the board members.

NEIGHBORHOOD WEB SITE AND EMAIL NEWS

Keep up to date on the latest information and events happening in our neighborhood and city. Visit our website at normalpark.org. While there sign up for the NPNA Email News. To sign up send your email address to listserve@normalpark.org.

If you have news items of your own that you would like to send to the neighborhood, email npna@umich.edu. The website also has an extensive list of links to city, community and businesses.

ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER

The NPNA newsletter reaches over 700 households in Ypsilanti. A business card sized ad is only \$30.00 per issue. If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter visit normalpark.org.

THE NPNA NEEDS YOU

The April NPNA general meeting is when new officers are elected and the board members terms begin. If you are interested in running for elected office or would like to be on the board please contact any board member.

