



npna

normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

autumn 2006

General Meeting Information

Where: Community/Senior Citizen Center Rec Park
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2006
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Speaker: Erika Julien, Voter Services Director of the League of Women Voters
Program: Ballot Proposals on November 7

NPNA GENERAL MEETING

The next NPNA General Meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, October 25th at the Senior/Community Center in Recreation Park.

Erika Julien, Voter Services Director of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area, will be our featured speaker. She will be discussing the proposals on the ballot for the Tuesday, November 7, 2006 general election.

Five proposals have been approved for the statewide ballot; there are no local proposals in the City of Ypsilanti. The statewide questions range from a referendum on legislation legalizing dove hunting, to constitutional amendments on affirmative action and eminent domain, to an initiative mandating increased school funding. Several are controversial.

The League of Women Voters (www.lwvmi.org) is a nonpartisan group devoted to increasing citizen participation in government. Founded in 1920, it's one of the most distinguished civic organizations in the country, well-known for its efforts to register and inform voters.

Though the League does not support individual candidates or parties, it does advocate on some issues, and the Michigan LWV opposes two of the five statewide proposals—the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative and the mandatory school funding initiative. Julien's presentation, however, will be informational and nonpartisan, laying out the issues in each proposal and the arguments made by supporters and opponents.

These ballot proposals, particularly those concerning affirmative action, eminent domain, and school funding, will have far-reaching and long-standing effects. Anyone planning to vote in November—and hopefully that is everyone reading this—should take advantage of this opportunity to become better informed about what's involved.

We have also asked the three candidates running for the Ward 2 City Council seat to attend. Peter Hubbard, Bill Nickels, and Tom Bagwell be on hand.

We look forward to seeing you!

YOUR NPNA DUES AT WORK

Once a year we ask for modest dues from the Normal Park families - just \$10 annual dues per household.

Your dues, along with the proceeds from our annual yard sale registrations, support a variety of community efforts that impact our neighborhood and the city of Ypsilanti. Among the very worthwhile projects that NPNA supports are:

- a fence for the Three Sisters Garden in Recreation Park and the fences around the Community Gardens in Rec Park and at West Middle School
- flowers and garden supplies for Ypsi Pride Day
- Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Historical Home Tour
- Friends of Rutherford Pool
- the neighborhood ice rink in Recreation Park
- bike rack installations, one of Ypsilanti Health Coalition's initiatives in the "Washtenaw Steps Up" project
- a donation to the inaugural Festival Latinos Unidos
- support for an Ypsilanti Recreation Commission community survey
- the Normal Park Halloween Parade
- the printing costs for this newsletter
- support of the NPNA website, normalpark.org

We traditionally ask for your annual dues at the Fall general meeting though you can give your dues at any time to any Board member, or send them to NPNA Treasurer, 922 Pearl.

Please help to support your neighborhood!



NORMAL PARK HALLOWEEN PARADE

This year's Halloween Parade has a new start time and location. At 4:00 pm we will meet by the Community/Senior Center parking lot in Rec Park. The parade will start at 4:15.

We will march around the perimeter of the park and past the 'Bench of Judges' where the costumes will be judged. The parade ends back at the Senior Center where treats will be provided. The costume contest winners will be announced and prizes given around 5:30. Costume Categories: Scariest, Prettiest, Funniest, and Most Creative. Other prizes may be given out, depending on what the judges see.

SENIOR CENTER VIABLE, THANKS TO YOUR GIFTS

One year ago this month it looked as though the Ypsilanti Community/Senior Center in Recreation Park would have to close its doors. Funding from the cash-strapped city budget had dropped to just enough to pay for basic building maintenance and utilities, and a federal grant for an Intergenerational Program, which was paying staff and operational costs, had run out. But thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and donors, many from the Normal Park Neighborhood, the new Friends' Group has successfully raised enough money to allow the Senior Center to reach its 45th anniversary this year!

A challenge gift of \$5,000 from retired EMU Professor **Don and Nancy Buckeye**, along with a \$10,000 gift from an anonymous donor, put the budget over the top this summer. Along with the previous generosity of many individual donors this year, a \$20,000 grant from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, and successful fundraisers like the well-attended Rock-a-thon, the Jaycees'-supported rummage sale, the Annual Corn Roast and the Women's Council geranium sale, these newest dollars make it possible to keep the Center's doors open.

Senior Center Coordinator Monica Prince noted that a recently awarded grant of \$5,000 from the Ypsilanti Area Beyer Memorial Health Foundation will now make it possible to expand the Center's exercise and health program.

We hope that all seniors from the neighborhood will take advantage of the array of services and programs that the Center offers. We are also pleased that so many community organizations can use the Center, including Growing Hope and several neighborhood associations, and we look forward to more partnerships in the future.

NPNA CANDIDATES FORUM THANK YOU

The NPNA sponsored a candidates forum on Thursday, July 20, to help those voting in the August Primary have better sense of who was running.

Moderated by NPNA Co-President **Sean Stidd** the event was well attended and a great success.

Great work and many thanks to Sean, the candidates and to all of the neighbors who attended!

COMMUNITY GARDENING BLOOMS AGAIN IN NORMAL PARK

Community gardening grew in Ypsilanti this year, with another garden installed on Firwood (off Michigan Avenue) and at a local church. Normal Park's two neighborhood gardens, at Recreation Park and West Middle School, also saw new ideas sprout to life.

Lisa Bashert, steward of the Recreation Park garden, planted a "Three Sisters Demonstration Garden," which showed the harmonious relationship between corn, beans and squash, an agricultural method developed by Native Americans many generations ago. This garden was located slightly southeast of the main Rec Park garden, toward the pool. Visitors learned more about the plants' relationship through interpretive signs placed around the perimeter of the garden. Lisa recently harvested 48 ears of corn from the Three Sisters garden to donate to the Plant a Row for the Hungry (PAR) program through Food Gatherers.

Over forty Normal Park area residents gardened this year at West Middle School Community Garden, with both brand new and very experienced gardeners enjoying the full-sun growing space. Visitors to the West Middle School Community Garden will notice a charming new sign, outdoor bulletin board, and bird houses on each fence post. The Plant a Row for the Hungry gardening space was expanded to two full plots this year, thanks to the enthusiastic management of gardeners **Linda Sankovich** and **Marcia Ledford**. As of early September, the Plant a Row for the Hungry plots have yielded over 100 lbs of freshly picked produce for Food Gatherers.

While the community gardens will go to bed for the winter at the end of October, spring will be here before we know it. Stay tuned for information on registering for a plot in early spring 2007! If you have questions in the meantime, please contact **Jenna Bacolor** at bacolorj@ewashtenaw.org or 483-1647.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Wednesday, August 2, residents of Normal Park came together for ice cream, games and community building.

Ice cream and toppings were plentiful, as was cake as NPNA celebrated its 16th anniversary. Neighbors gathered in the Rose Garden next to the Community/Senior Center in Recreation Park. Children (and many parents) enjoyed games and activities supplied by area residents along with huge smiles and lots of laughs.

Lisa Wozniak was the big hero of the event, helping with the organizational heavy lifting. She also helped with set up and clean up.


Thanks also go out the following individuals/families:

- **Kira Berman** and **Jenna Bacolor** who came early and helped set up.
- **Sue Collins** who brought a giant wonderful cake that was entirely devoured.
- Also, several neighborhood folks who spontaneously chipped in and helped with the cleanup their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

-- **Sean Stidd**, NPNA Co-President

CHAD PRATT PAINT



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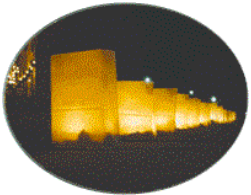
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THIRD ANNUAL NIGHT OF LIGHTS, DECEMBER 9



On Saturday, December 9, welcome winter with an evening of strolling by luminaries and spending some time with your neighbors!

NPNA will be selling luminaries kits for our annual Normal Park Night of Lights Celebration. Help us decorate our

neighborhood for the evening by purchasing a kit or two to line your sidewalk or yard with luminaries. Proceeds from the kits will go to the NPNA and the Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers, who will join us again this year to carol along the areas lit with luminaries.

Date: Saturday, December 9 (Rain Date: Sunday, December 10), Time: 6:00 pm

One Luminary Kit contains 10 bags and 10 candles. You will also need sand, gravel or kitty litter to help stabilize the candles inside the bags.

Price: \$5.00 for one kit or \$12.00 for 3 kits.

A limited number of extra luminary kits will be available at pickup, but we encourage you to pre-order your kits to ensure that you get the number of luminaries you would like!

Luminary Kits pick-up will be at the Community/Senior Center on the following dates:

Saturday, December 2nd, 9:00 am to noon

Monday, December 4th, 10 am – 2 pm

Questions? Please call: Heather Benoit at 481-0726 or Rebecca Dunkle at 482-9330

LUMINARY ORDER FORM

Cut on the above dotted line and mail or drop this form off by November 15 to:
NPNA, C/o Rebecca Dunkle, 922 Pearl Street, Ypsilanti, MI. Please make checks payable to NPNA.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone or email: _____

	Quantity	Total
One Luminary Kit: \$5.00 x _____	=	_____
Set of 3 Luminary Kits: \$12.00 x _____	=	_____
Grand Total		_____

Are you interested in hosting a 'Cider or Cocoa Stop?', please check here and we'll contact you! _____

HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

1221 Congress S	\$119,900
309 Mansfield N	\$119,900
1121 Grant	\$149,900
1215 Washtenaw	\$150,000
1309 Congress N	\$154,900
765 Mansfield N	\$159,900
1226 Congress	\$159,900
473 Mansfield N	\$164,900
810 Congress N	\$164,900
1219 Washtenaw	\$167,500
475 Owendale	\$167,900
1215 Pearl	\$169,900
473 Douglas	\$174,900
481 Owendale	\$174,900
1115 Grant	\$174,900
403 Courtland	\$176,500
952 Sherman	\$179,900
645 Mansfield	\$179,900
959 Sheridan	\$179,900
314 Hiawatha	\$179,900
440 Marion	\$184,900
1114 Grant	\$188,000
1116 Grant	\$189,000
907 Pleasant	\$189,900
205 Elm	\$189,900
552 Marion	\$199,900
916 Pearl	\$199,900
6 Elm	\$199,900
909 Sheridan	\$188,900
624 Mansfield N	\$199,900
8 Wallace N	\$200,000
924 Pearl Street	\$205,000
933 Pleasant Dr.	\$207,500
312 Wallace N	\$209,000
1213 Westmoorland	\$209,900
915 Sherman Ct	\$224,900
909 Pearl	\$224,900
1109 Cross	\$224,888
211 Elm	\$229,900
1006 Cross W	\$229,900
1310 Cross W	\$234,000
920 Pearl	\$249,900
1115 Cross W	\$249,900
1313 Cross St	\$258,500

The following homes have sold recently:

1106 Grant	\$180,000
1237 Elbridge	\$180,450
966 W Cross	\$154,000
722 Courtland	\$202,000
965 W Cross	\$295,000
459 Anna	\$182,500
1307 Westmoorland	\$278,000

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more additional information visit normalpark.org

- **NPNA General Meeting** Oct 25
Community Center, Rec Park, 7:30 pm
- **Downtown Halloween Fall Festival** Oct 27
Downtown Ypsilanti, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Normal Park Halloween Parade** Oct 28
Community Center, Rec Park, 4:00 pm
- **General Election** Nov 7
Polls are open 7:00 am – 8:00 pm
- **Holiday Home Tour** Dec 3
Ypsilanti, 12:00 – 5:00 pm
- **Normal Park Night of Lights** Dec 9
Normal Park Neighborhood, 6:00 pm
- **New Year Jubilee** Dec 31

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 listserv@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.

2006 BOARD MEMBERS/CHAIRPERSONS

Co-President:	Sean Stidd	483-8301
Co-President/	Joe Capuano	483-6091
Newsletter/Website:		
Treasurer/CoPAC:	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
	Lisa Wozniak	483-5013

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.

ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER

The NPNA newsletter is printed four times a year and reaches over 800 households in Ypsilanti. A business card sized ad is only \$30.00 per issue or \$100 for four issues. In addition to dues and the annual yard sale advertisements are a key way to fund the printing of this newsletter.

Interested in advertising in the newsletter? Visit normalpark.org