



npna

normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

winter 2007

General Meeting Information

Where: Senior Citizen Center Rec Park
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2007
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Speaker: Kathryn Savoie
Program: Global Climate Change

NPNA GENERAL MEETING

The NPNA General Meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at the Senior Center in Recreation Park.

NPNA is very excited to announce that we are having Kathryn Savoie as our keynote speaker at our general meeting.

Kathryn is a colleague in the conservation/environmental community and a key staff person at the Arab American Center for Community and Social Services (ACCESS) in Dearborn. Perhaps most importantly, Kathryn is one of Al Gore's recent trainees regarding his global climate change work and will be presenting to the group on that subject.

In September of last year, Savoie was one of the first 50 people from around the country to be trained as part of the Climate Project, a grassroots educational effort associated with the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, which chronicles the growing problem of global warming and Al Gore's efforts to combat it.

She has also included in her presentation data related to Michigan about heat-related deaths and illnesses, the reduction of water levels in the Great Lakes and the threat of mosquito-borne diseases that can come as the insect population increases when colder temperatures don't exist to regulate them.

Savoie includes three recommendations for action. First, talk to somebody about the issue with a sense of urgency.

Second, become aware of your own impact on the environment and act to limit it: reduce the use of hot water, electricity, gas or oil for heating and fuel for cars; drive more fuel-efficient cars and limit airline travel.

Third, contact politicians at every level. Urge local and federal officials to do something about the environmental issues.

"I'm asking people to take some action to create the will for change," she says. "There are a million things you can tell people to do. I think the biggest thing is to have people become conscious," Savoie says.

We are hoping that you will spread the word about the meeting and encourage your neighbors to attend. Kathryn will be using the Gore PowerPoint presentation and it should be a very interesting and engaging night.

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS CONTINUE

Thanks in part to a grant from the Beyer Memorial Foundation, the Ypsilanti Senior/Community Center in Recreation Park now offers fitness classes for seniors five days a week.

Mark A. Harris leads our new and already popular exercise class, which start at 9:30 am on Mondays. "What I try to do is get people to make physical activity (exercise) a part of their life, like brushing their teeth and eating", says Mark, who is both an experienced personal trainer and a designer at Federal-Mogul Corp.

Certified by the National Strength and Conditioning Association, Mark grew up in Westland, MI and went to Inkster High School and EMU. As children, Mark and his siblings were guided by their father, who was a coach, to do their chores and also 5-10 push-ups, 10-15 sit-ups, run around the backyard, and then they could go out and play. "Exercise was just part of our regular routine. I want everyone to see physical activity the same way". The class uses weights, exercise balls and other techniques to encourage strength and flexibility.

There is also a line dancing class, Tai Chi, Fitness and Flexibility classes, and a Walking Club. This summer we plan to offer a Water Aerobics class in cooperation with Rutherford Pool as well. All classes are free and suitable for all ability levels.

We encourage everyone in the neighborhood who is aged 55 or over to stop by the Center to check out these and the other senior programs: Cooking 101, a new Book Discussion Club, craft and service projects and much more. Several neighbors are already active at the Center, as participants and volunteers. Andrea Linn teaches a popular cooking class once a month, Gerry Butterwick has entertained us with piano and guitar on several occasions, and Corky Pitts is a super-talented quilter. We encourage everyone to check it out. Lunch is served daily as well, through the Washtenaw County ESTC program, for a modest donation of \$2.50.

We are also enjoying new partnerships with young people, including several presentations and projects with Chapelle School; help from high school and college students from Ypsilanti High School's Key Club and EMU's Circle K (the student branches of Kiwanis Club International, who are helping with painting and other projects); and a wonderful intergenerational exchange when a neighborhood infants' play group meets every Saturday morning in the Center along with the Senior Quilting Group. Call Center Supervisor Monica Prince, 483-5014, or seniorcenter@umich.edu for more information.

YPSILANTI POLICE ACTIVITY UPDATE – JAN 2006

From Ypsilanti Police Chief Matt Harshberger in an update to the CoPAC representatives January 8, 2007.

I wanted to provide an update to let everyone know where things stand. If you saw the Ann Arbor News article on January 7 about Washtenaw County Jail overcrowding, you probably got a snapshot as to what we've been doing for the past couple of weeks, but there's a little more than just that.

First, here's the update with the county jail. About mid-December I received a fax machine from the sheriff's department that the county jail was no longer overcrowded and would accept prisoners. I immediately began conducting the warrant sweeps to arrest all the individuals that we had put on the list of jail refusals since September. The sweeps have been very productive as the newspaper article indicated and we are continuing to look for the individuals that are now hiding because they know the jail is taking arrests.

If you've been keeping track of the jail situation, you probably have learned that Circuit Court Judge Melinda Morris ordered the sheriff to abide by the statutory requirement to reduce sentences by up to 30%. This happened just before I received the fax. Because the jail was no longer overcrowded, the sheriff did not have to reduce sentences, but the end result was that we were able to lodge arrests again and we have been taking advantage of the opportunity to get offenders and re-offenders off the streets.

Additionally, there was an increase in burglaries from mid-December to the end of December in the Midtown NA and Riverside NA areas. Fortunately, we were able to catch the two main suspects while they were in the middle of a burglary on Ballard St. The apprehension of these two suspects (great job by the responding YPD officers) led to investigations that resulted in the resolution of approximately a dozen burglaries the two had committed in the previous two weeks. Both perpetrators are Ypsilanti Township residents and are currently in custody. It is very nice to report that we did not have a burglary in several days - since Jan. 4th - so we feel the arrests of these two individuals and the arrests of the many subjects from warrant sweeps has done much to address the individuals committing burglaries and/or larcenies in the city - unfortunately we would be foolish to believe that it will last for long.

As for the several street robberies that had been occurring over the past month, YPD officers tracked down and arrested a primary suspect involved in a street robbery. This perpetrator has been charged with four counts; Unarmed Robbery, Assault w/intent to Rob while Unarmed, Assault on a Police Officer and Receiving & Concealing Stolen Property. We issued a press release and we are investigating further on the other robberies to determine if he is the suspect that was involved in those. This individual is a Detroit resident, but was living with his sister here in the city.

After a changeover in reporting software, we will soon be up and running again with the weekly crime statistics online at ypsilantipolice.org

As you can see from this note, as well as from the Ann Arbor News article, we have been extremely busy over the past few

weeks trying to get things under control with regard to crimes that had been occurring in the community. I think we have made considerable progress, but we have much more work to do. Rest assured that YPD will continue to work hard at keeping Ypsilanti a safe and enjoyable community to live and work.

I sincerely appreciate CoPAC's steadfast support of the YPD and the work we are doing. I also appreciate all the hard work the police officers, detectives and command staff have been doing on the streets to get things cleaned up. Thank you all!!

Matt Harshberger, Chief of Police

Ypsilanti Police Department, 505 W. Michigan Ave. Ypsilanti, MI. 48197, telephone: (734) 483-8590 or email: mharshberger@cityofypsilanti.com

A NOTE ABOUT COPAC

CoPAC is the Community Policing Action Council, which unites the neighborhoods of Ypsilanti through a council composed of representatives of neighborhood associations, the Ypsilanti Police Department, the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce, EMU and other groups like business associations. It is a federation of associations, dedicated to community government that pro-actively addresses issues and concerns.

Normal Park Neighborhood Association is a charter member of CoPAC. After several years as our NPNA representative on CoPAC **Rebecca Dunkle** is stepping down to welcome our new NPNA representative, **Beth Bashert**, and alternate rep **Joe Schultz**. We appreciate Beth and Joe's willingness to take on this important role, and look forward to hearing from them in the future.



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REC PARK ICE RINK

Some may have noticed another attempt at installing an ice rink in Recreation Park this winter.

We are hoping the weather cooperates unlike last year when it never stayed cold enough for long enough. This year the rink was built on the grass between Congress and the basketball courts. This should help with the freezing of the ice and keep the courts free to play.

Stop on by and check out the ice.

Special thanks to **John Weiss, Costa Stamos, Orlando Simon,** and **Rich Bacolor** for helping to build the rink.

NORMAL PARK NIGHT AT THE CORNER BREWERY

The first gathering at the Corner Brewery on January 11 was a lot of fun!

There was great food, great beer, great conversation and the kids played very well together. Most of the people that came want to see the event continue. So if you didn't make it mark February 8 from 6pm-8pm on your calendar. We are doing it again, hope to see you there!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL NIGHT OF LIGHTS

Neighbors throughout Normal Park welcomed winter by lining their sidewalks and yards with candle-lit luminaries, and strolling through the neighborhood and spending time with friends and neighbors during the third annual Night of Lights on Saturday December 9.

We had generous hosts and great refreshments at the wonderful cider stops and were entertained by the Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers throughout the evening. Elm Street and some parts of Pearl and Grant were definitely the brightest blocks this year.

Thank you also to everyone who lit their luminaries and to those who came out to enjoy the evening. It was a truly wonderful way to kick off the winter and stay connected to our neighbors.

Next year we hope to have the whole neighborhood glowing!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY


We want to thank the many Normal Park neighbors and friends who supported the Senior/Community Center recently, including

- The Ypsilanti Garden Club for a beautifully crafted evergreen wreath on the back of the fireplace
- Midtown neighbor Carol Blackmon for fresh greens and candle centerpieces (special orders to your specifications, 734-262-1204)
- Garrett's Florist, 950 N River St, 480-0022, for the flowers for the Anniversary Dinner
- Amy Strutz of A J Leo Electric, 734-368-6945 who helped with lighting and electrical problems at the center, and her assistant David Felix, who is also a talented graphic artist, 734-961-9173.

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New in the neighborhood...

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734.547.1708



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HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

1226 Congress	\$110,900
1215 Washtenaw	\$142,900
475 Owendale	\$147,900
1121 Grant	\$144,900
473 Mansfield N	\$154,900
811 Mansfield	\$164,900
1208 Grant	\$164,900
1219 Washtenaw	\$167,500
1304 Congress	\$169,000
952 Sherman	\$169,900
552 Marion	\$169,900
909 Sheridan	\$175,000
403 Courtland	\$176,500
1220 Grant	\$178,900
915 Sherman Ct	\$179,900
645 Mansfield	\$179,900
440 Marion	\$169,900
1240 Cross W	\$180,000
1114 Grant	\$188,000
115 Oakwood	\$189,000
205 Elm	\$189,900
624 Mansfield N	\$189,900
907 Pleasant	\$189,900
8 Wallace N	\$198,800
933 Pleasant Dr.	\$199,900
916 Pearl	\$199,900
924 Pearl Street	\$199,900
1213 Westmoorland	\$204,900
312 Wallace N	\$206,000
1005 Cross W	\$209,000
1109 Cross	\$214,888
909 Pearl	\$229,900
1006 Cross W	\$229,900
1006 Pearl Street	\$237,000
920 Pearl	\$234,900
1313 Cross St	\$249,500

The following homes have sold recently:

314 Hiawatha	\$170,000
959 Sheridan	\$173,500
1116 Grant Street	\$180,000
459 Anna	\$182,500
722 Courtland	\$202,000
1303 Congress N	\$213,000

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

HELP 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more additional information visit www.normalpark.org

- **NPNA General Meeting** Jan 31
Senior Center, Rec Park, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- **NPNA General Meeting** Apr 25
Senior Center, Rec Park, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

2006 BOARD MEMBERS/CHAIRPERSONS

Co-President:	Sean Stidd	483-8301
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
CoPAC:	Beth Bashert	483-6420
Economic Development:	Patrick McLean	485-5852
Social Chair /	Jeff Guyton	239-4624
New Neighbor:		
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.

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 you can sign up for the NPNA News. It's a nice supplement to the quarterly newsletter. 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 business websites.

ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER

The NPNA newsletter reaches over 700 households in Ypsilanti. A business card sized ad is only \$30.00 per issue or \$100 for a year. If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter please contact a board member or 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.

