



npna

normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

spring 2007

General Meeting Information

Where: Community/Senior Center Rec Park
Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2007
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Program: Active Living Locally

NPNA GENERAL MEETING

The next NPNA General Meeting is at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at the Community/Senior Center in Recreation Park. *Please note the earlier start time.*

Join your neighbors at “Active Living Locally”, our spring NPNA meeting which will be organized like an open house, with information tables and brief presentations by special guests. The program will feature many new options and updates for people who like to be physically active and eat healthfully right in our own city. Hot off the presses, we’ll have:



- Information on free community walks, bike rides, and exercise classes being held during Get Active Ypsi Month (May) – find out whom in our neighborhood is leading special events!
- Brand new bike maps featuring the county’s border-to-border (B2B) trail which runs right through the heart of

Ypsilanti.

- Rutherford Pool news and programming for summer.
- Info and coupons from Bicycles in Town, Ypsi’s own downtown bike shop.

Interested in local food issues and expanding your eating options? Part of our meeting will focus on celebrating new strands in Ypsi’s food web, including information on:

- A possible new downtown grocery store, with a short presentation from a staff person at the county’s office of community development and an opportunity to give feedback.
- What’s new at the Ypsilanti Farmers’ Market.
- Events and programs at our local community gardens.

The April NPNA meeting is also time for the NPNA elections. New officers are elected and board members terms begin. If you are interested in running for Co-President, Secretary or Treasurer or would like to be on the board please contact a board member.

Refreshments will be served at the meeting. Children and adults welcome.



SENIOR CENTER ROCK A THON

Help support the fundraising efforts at the Senior Center by attending their second annual Rock-a-thon on Saturday, April 28, from 1:00 to 5:00 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!



Pledge forms are available by contacting seniorcenter@umich.edu or you can download one from the NPNA website’s calendar page at www.normalpark.org.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Things are peeking up at the neighborhood community gardens. There are three gardens in the vicinity of the Normal Park Neighborhood: Recreation Park Community Garden located behind the Community/Senior Center, West Middle School Community Garden behind the school, and Midtown Community Garden at the corner of Normal & Congress Streets. All of these gardens are places where residents can rent a plot to grow fresh vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Lots of activities are planned for our community gardens this year. Midtown Community Garden will be hosting a mural painting party. Recreation Park Community Garden will do a program on biointensive gardening, a poetry reading, and a tea party on our “patio.” West Middle School Community Garden will host a children’s sunflower planting party and an art activity that could include rock painting, fairy gardening or other fun and mysterious activities. All three gardens are coordinating the planting of early greens to offer for sale at the Ypsilanti Farmers’ Market.

Don’t forget to visit the Three Sisters demonstration garden in Recreation Park. It’s an educational display about Native American growing techniques with lots of informational signs. All of our community gardens are great destinations—you are invited to take a walk and see what’s growing in our gardens! All of the gardens have a bulletin board where upcoming events are posted, plus we’ll keep you informed through the Normal Park email list.

NPNA NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE

Saturday, June 2, 2007, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Send your registration form in by **Friday, May 25**. Use the form in the newsletter or print one from the NPNA website at normalpark.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD YPSI PRIDE ACTIVITIES SATURDAY, MAY 19

Ypsilanti PRIDE (People Restoring Image & Developing the Environment) is celebrating its 12th anniversary this year, with an effort to make a lasting impression through landscape planning and the planting of perennials as well as annuals. Organized through the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce, the planners are seeking volunteer input on various levels, from Garden Planners, to Team Leaders at the various sites, to ongoing Garden Stewards

Be sure to reserve the date of Saturday, May 19th from 9 to 12, so you can join in the rewarding fun of community volunteering, followed by lunch and entertainment at Riverside Park, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Call the Ypsi PRIDE Hotline at 544-3636 or visit the YpsiChamber web site (www.ypsichamber.org/pride) for further information.

As in years past, NPNA will have a number of project sites right in our neighborhood. Recreation Park and adjacent parks and garden areas need your help. This includes the Senior Center and Rutherford Pool (buildings and grounds), the Community Gardens, the Rose Garden, park play areas, as well as along Congress Street. Additional neighborhood project sites include Hefley Park, the landscaped end-caps on the boulevards as well as work at neighborhood schools such as Chapelle. Bring gloves and any appropriate gardening tools.

Please consider volunteering as a local Site Captain for an area noted below. Call **Sarah Weiss** for more information: 480-1823.

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, constructing a second raised veggie garden bed.
- **Rose Garden**: Weeding, pruning, raking, planting, spreading chips.

Rec Park and West Middle School Community Gardens*:
Projects as determined by the site coordinators.

Hefley Park*: Trash pickup, weeding, planting by sign & peace pole, raking, spreading chips, cutting shrubs on the East boundary

Congress Street: Summit to Mansfield trash pick-up.

* Projects suited to children are noted with an asterisk.

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". A hearty thank you goes out to all who have participated in this ongoing, valuable gardening effort. Please contact **Sarah Weiss** (480-1823) if you are willing to continue or are interested in tending an end cap. We always need new additions to our crew or folks willing to help with periodic weeding and watering. No experience necessary

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: west end needs a caretaker and we need to weed, plant new perennials and annuals, and spread wood chips

The Congress "V": back-up help needed for this large area. Grasses need taming and soil should be amended due to salt and plowing assaults.

RUTHERFORD POOL



This summer your neighborhood pool will be full of fun, relaxation, fitness, excitement and hopefully you. We are scheduled to open on Memorial Day Weekend.

The prices for the pool will remain the same!

Due to lots of hard work, fundraising and careful management of staff and supplies we were able to nearly break even and not have to touch our "rainy day" emergency fund. We are always hopeful that there won't be a major repair....

Sunday, April 29 marks the return of "Pennies for the Pool" at the Community/Senior Center from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. Bring in your loose change and watch it add up.

April 29 will also be your first chance to buy your family pass and to sign up for swim lessons at last years prices. Sign up before Memorial Day and save:

- Family Pass \$125; before Memorial Day \$115.
- Individual Adult Pass: \$60; before Memorial Day \$55
- Swim Lessons First child/session \$50 next child/session \$45 each

Our big fundraiser this year is May 19, after Ypsilanti PRIDE. Join us at the Corner Brewery for The Wurst of Ypsilanti from 4:00 to 10:00 pm. There will be sausages and food galore, music by Hulabalo and beer by the Corner Brewery.

Tickets are \$20.00 for adults in advance, \$25 at the door and children are \$5. Your ticket gets you unlimited food, lemonade and music. Beer, wine and soft drinks are available for purchase and t-shirts will be on sale along with passes for the pool. We need volunteers to make this event successful.

Volunteers are also needed to help during Ypsilanti PRIDE. We are inspecting the pool and putting together a plan for the day.

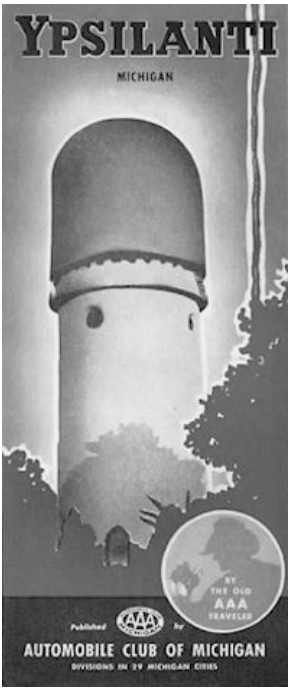
Please keep the pool in mind while spring cleaning. If you find you need to update your plastic chairs-donate the old usable ones to the pool. If you run across last year's swimsuits-donate those to the pool for lenders.

New this year will be an Adult Water Aerobics class. We will also have a Western BBQ on June 21 to celebrate the first day of summer. We will not be having a silent auction this year.

If you have questions, ideas, donations of goods or money please contact **Cathy Thorburn** at 485-9457 or catabates@hotmail.com

Thank you and see you at the pool – **Cathy**

YPSILANTI'S WATERTOWER



Ypsilanti's most famous landmark is impossible to miss as you approach Ypsilanti from the west along Washtenaw Avenue or Cross Street.

Located on the highest point in Ypsilanti, the Ypsilanti Water Tower is 147 feet high and has an 85-foot base. It was designed by William R. Coats as part of an elaborate city waterworks project that began in 1899 and completed on February 3, 1890 at a cost of \$21,435.63 and has been in continuous service since that time.

The main purpose for the reservoir is to store a reserve supply of water to feed cast iron mains constructed in 1885. The elevation provides sufficient gravity pressure to furnish fire

service in emergencies.

In planning the design, Mr. Coats considered purpose as well as overall appearance. The substructure walls rest on a foundation of concrete mortar six inches deep and are constructed of Joliet limestone. They taper from a thickness of forty inches at the bottom to 24 inches at the top. The reservoir holds a 250,000-gallon steel tank. Constructed on top of the walls were 10-inch steel I-beams spaced two feet apart and crossing the walls at right angles. The steel reservoir tank rests on the beams and walls of the substructure. Finally, at 147 feet above ground level, there is a cupola with glazed windows.

The tower was built by local day laborers who constructed three stone crosses, one over the outside west door and two others inside the tower, to protect them from injury. In fact, there were no fatal accidents during construction.

Until 1956 this structure was the only water tower in the Ypsilanti water system. The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) has operated and maintained the structure since 1974.

To maintain the solidity and beauty of the tower, YCUA had the structure renovated in 1976 at the cost of \$114,694. This involved reshingling the roof, replacing beams and barriers, repainting and other general repairs. In 1987, YCUA reconstructed the entry doors. With each repair and renovation, YCUA has always attempted to maintain the original appearance of the tower.

The water tower was acknowledged in 1975 when it was selected as an American Water Landmark by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). The tower is one of several sites selected in the nation for its historical significance to the community as a water supply and the first



designated site in the State of Michigan. In 1987, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation honored the structure by designating the tower as historical architecture in Ypsilanti.

In 1988, the Ypsilanti stone tower became a Registered Michigan Historic Site as listed by the Bureau of History, Michigan Department of State. A large marker beside the tower reads: "Day laborers constructed this water tower, which was completed in 1890 at a cost of \$21,435.63. The tower and the city waterworks supplied 471 customers in the first year. An ordinance passed on April 14, 1898 established a yearly rate schedule. Rates were based on the number of faucets in use, the type of business that customers operated and the livestock they owned. A residence with one tap was charged \$5.00; a private bathtub cost an extra \$2.00. Saloon keepers paid \$7.00 for one faucet, \$3.00 for each additional faucet, and \$1.00 for each billiard table. Each cow a person owned cost \$1.00. People who failed to pay their bill were subject to a \$50.00 fine and ninety days in the county jail. Until 1956, this



structure was the only water tower in the Ypsilanti water system."

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In 1996, the stone tower was designated a Michigan Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). In 2004, it was featured in the national magazine, Esquire, in a column titled, "Man At His Best: The Nine Most Remarkable Things in Culture This Month."



As a landmark and attractive physical feature, the Ypsilanti Water Tower continues to be a symbol of the city of Ypsilanti.

-- Prepared by Fred Ibbetson, Retired Water Superintendent



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NPNA NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE, SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2007, 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Every year the first Saturday of June in Normal Park means yard sale. It is the main fundraising event for the Normal Park Neighborhood Association.

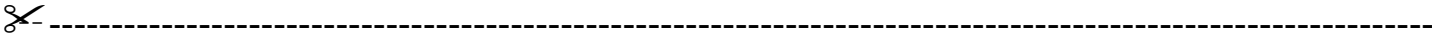
A \$10.00 registration fee will get your home included on a neighborhood map with descriptions of your items for sale. The NPNA provides newspaper ads, posts signs at the boundaries of our neighborhood, and distributes the neighborhood maps. Use this opportunity to get rid of a lot of cool stuff you no longer need. There are always hundreds of eager customers.

You keep all the money you make. Your registration fee pays for the advertising and the rest goes into the NPNA fund to help pay for neighborhood projects.

Send your registration form in by **Friday, May 25**. You can use the form below or print one from the NPNA website at normalpark.org. If you cannot get your form in by May 25 the NPNA will stop by and collect your registration fee on the day of the yard sale.

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**.



Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please list items you would like to have printed on the map (e.g. furniture, books, antiques, toys, miscellaneous household items)



REC COMMISSION UPDATE – MARCH 2007

The Recreation Commission is a five-member board, appointed by the Mayor, to help address the critical issues surrounding the elimination of recreation funding from the City's general budget. This coming year the Commission will be involved in a couple of major activities, supporting the City and Friends' groups in maintaining and growing recreational opportunities for citizens across the community.

This past month the Commission met with City Staff Karen Hart and Richard Murphy to explore its role in supporting the development of a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The current plan is due to expire at the end of 2007. The purpose of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to guide the development of a community's parks, open spaces, recreation facilities and programs. It serves as a road map to set priorities and allocate resources. If the plan meets the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidelines, the community is eligible to apply for MDNR grants.

The Recreation Commission is also looking forward to supporting three initiatives that are happening across the County and City that could help support long-term solutions for recreation programs and facilities.

First, Recreation Commissioners continue to participate in **Recreation 2026**, an initiative spearheaded by Eastern Michigan's Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities and moving into its second year. The collective of EMU faculty, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation staff, government and business representatives, and citizens is making recommendations to create some new funding streams for recreation across the County.

Second, the Recreation Commission continues to work with Mayor Schreiber as he forms the Ypsilanti 2020 Task Force. One of the main components of the Task Force's work will be recreation.

And third, the formation of the Depot Town Community Development Corporation (CDC), a new entity forming out of the Depot Town Association, creates an exciting opportunity to support parks as well as recreation programming and facilities. A CDC is a specially designated non-profit agency that can focus on a wide range of economic development initiatives, youth and recreation issues and support historic renovation as well.

Mayor Schreiber is looking to expand the Recreation Commission from five members to eleven. Council and Mayor should be deliberating on the expansion in the next month.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for April 18, at 5:30. This will be a special meeting for the group to tour several of the City's parks in order to assess their condition for the Master Plan revision. The Commission typically 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 the Recreation Commissioner in the third ward - John Weiss at weissjk@umich.edu or 734.480.1823. Additionally you can contact the City's liaison to the Recreation Commission Bill Bohlen, Department of Public Works, either by phone at 483-1421 or e-mail at BBohlen@cityofypsilanti.com.

LEAVE THE DRIVING TO AATA



One advantage to living in Normal Park is the unusually good bus service. Three AATA routes serve our neighborhood. All go between the transit centers in downtown Ypsilanti and downtown Ann Arbor. For those

seeking to cut the cost of commuting or reduce their environmental footprint, the bus can be an alternative to cars for many destinations. Walking to the bus stop provides some healthful exercise, and once on board, there is no concern with traffic or road conditions and no hunting for a parking place in Ann Arbor.

The most frequent service is on the #4 Washtenaw route, which runs every 15 minutes at rush hours, less often evenings and weekends.

It goes along Washtenaw, with main stops at Arborland mall, a transfer point, and the UM medical center, before reaching downtown Ann Arbor.

The #5 Packard bus goes along Cross St. every 30 minutes weekdays, less often on evenings and Saturdays. It takes Packard to the UM campus and downtown Ann Arbor, with a jog south to Ellsworth between Platt and Stone School roads, which allows for transfers to the #6 bus. If returning from Ann Arbor, be sure to take the bus marked #5 Ypsilanti, as the alternate #5 Meijers goes only as far as the Meijers store on Carpenter.

The #6 Ellsworth route runs hourly along Congress on weekdays, taking Ellsworth to Briarwood Mall and following South Industrial and State St. to downtown Ann Arbor. An alternate #6 serves the south side of Ypsilanti, taking Michigan Ave. to Ellsworth. Transfers from the #5 to either #6 can be made at the University Townhouses bus shelter on Ellsworth.

The standard fare is \$1, in exact change or tokens, but there are many lower rates. UM staff and students ride free with their Mcards, and commuters to downtown Ann Arbor can get go-passes through their employers. Other commuters can get 30-day passes. Young children ride free, and K-12 students are half-fare. Senior citizens ride for half-fare at ages 60-64 and only 25 cents at 65, with a card available from the AATA office on South Industrial. Various fares are available for the disabled.

Route schedule booklets are available on the buses, at the transit centers, and in other public buildings. Information is also available at 996-0400 or www.TheRide.org.

-- Clare Beck

Amy Strutz
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HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

1226 Congress	\$105,900
1215 Washtenaw	\$138,900
912 Sheridan	\$139,000
208 Oakwood	\$144,000
1304 Congress N	\$160,000
1208 Grant	\$164,900
1215 Pearl	\$159,900
1219 Washtenaw	\$167,500
952 Sherman	\$168,900
1115 Grant	\$169,900
1220 Grant	\$174,900
909 Sheridan	\$175,000
1109 Westmoorland	\$179,000
915 Sherman Ct	\$179,900
1240 Cross W	\$180,000
8 Wallace N	\$189,500
205 Elm	\$179,900
907 Pleasant	\$189,900
916 Pearl	\$189,900
924 Pearl Street	\$188,000
1101 Cross W	\$199,000
933 Pleasant Dr.	\$199,900
1111 Cross W	\$199,900
312 Wallace N	\$204,700
105 Oakwood	\$209,900
1109 Cross	\$214,888
1115 Pearl	\$219,000
1006 Cross W	\$219,900
1301 Cross W	\$219,900
211 Elm	\$219,900
1006 Pearl Street	\$224,000
920 Pearl	\$224,900
909 Pearl	\$229,900
1313 Cross St W	\$239,500
122 Linden Ct	\$239,900

The following homes have sold recently:

5 Summit N	\$ 115,000
810 Congress N	\$ 135,000
473 Mansfield N	\$ 153,000
811 Mansfield	\$ 164,900
1 Summit N	\$ 165,000
314 Hiawatha	\$ 170,000
645 Mansfield	\$ 173,000
115 Oakwood	\$ 175,000
624 Mansfield N	\$ 185,000

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** Apr 25
Community Center, Rec Park, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- **Rock-a-thon** Apr 28
Community Center, Rec Park, 1:00 - 5:00 pm
- **Pennies for the Pool** Apr 29
Community Center, Rec Park, 12:00 - 3:00 pm
- **Ypsi PRIDE Day** May 19
Throughout the city, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **Wurst of Ypsilanti** May 19
Corner Brewery, 4:00 - 10:00 pm
- **Memorial Day Parade** May 28
Starts at 9:00 am
- **Normal Park Neighborhood Yard Sale** Jun 2
Normal Park, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- **Independence Day Parade** Jul 4
Down Cross, 11:00 am
- **Michigan Elvisfest** Jul 13 & 14
Riverside Park
- **NPNA Ice Cream Social** Aug 1
Community Center, Rec Park, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

2007 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
	Sarah Devaney	480-9018
	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.