



npna

normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

summer 2007

NPNA Ice Cream Social

Where: Community/Senior Center Rec Park
Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2007
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Program: Ice Cream, Meeting Neighbors, and Fun

NPNA ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Wednesday, August 1, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm the NPNA is holding our annual Ice Cream Social in the Rose Garden behind the Community/Senior Center in Recreation Park.

It is time, once again, for the NPNA Ice Cream Social. This is a wonderful event because it brings folks together in ways that our other events do not.

Our other three quarterly meetings attract neighbors who are interested in specific topics, from city planning to parking changes to understanding how Normal Park residents can keep their heating costs down. Our other neighborhood events, like the Night of Lights and the yard sale get folks out and about in the neighborhood, meeting and learning from each other in ways that help foster understanding and friendships. Our Halloween Parade brings out the children (and their parents!) for an afternoon of wonderful fun.

Each and every one of these events is important to fostering a true sense of community and is of interest and fun to the participants. But the Ice Cream Social ties all of these things together. Perhaps it's the time of year: summer time! Perhaps it's the venue: the Rose Garden, a garden grown and tended by the loving hands of a few dedicated neighbors for all to enjoy. Perhaps it's simply the offerings: ICE CREAM! Whatever the reason, the Ice Cream Social brings out all different kinds of neighbors, young, old, some with kids, some without, for an evening of tasty treats, informal conversation, games for kids, and simple pleasure.

Please join us on August 1st for ice cream.

RECREATION COMMISSION CHANGES

Several Normal Park neighbors were appointed to the city's Recreation Commission in June. Thank you to **Rebecca Dunkle, Nathalie Edmunds, Matt Stone-Palmquist, and Cathy Thorburn** for taking on this role. Rounding out the new appointments is Chana Hawkins, whom many of you know as a former coordinator of the Senior Center, and two youth members to the Commission not yet named. Continuing members of the Commission are Amanda Edmonds, Amby Wilbanks, and Kerry Winkelseth. Outgoing Chair John Weiss, another Normal Park resident, has just concluded his tenure on the Recreation Commission.

THE POOL IS OPEN!

After a late start due to unexpected plumbing problems the Rutherford Pool opened for the season in June.

2007 Season Hours (June 9 to September 3):

Monday through Friday

- Adult Lap Swim 6:30 to 8:00 am
- Adult Lap Swim 12:00 to 1:00 pm
- Open Swim 1:00 to 5:00 pm
- Adult Lap Swim 5:00 to 6:00 pm
- Family Swim 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday

- Adult Lap Swim 12:00 to 1:00 pm
- Open Swim 1:00 to 5:00 pm
- Adult Lap Swim 5:00 to 6:00 pm
- Family Swim 6:00 to 8:00 pm

2007 Rates

- Family Annual Pass \$125 (mid-season discount pass is available)
- Individual Annual Pass \$60
- Swim Lessons: First series of lessons \$50, additional child or lessons \$45

Drop in rates:

- Adults \$3.00 per session
- Seniors \$2.00
- Child (1-5pm) \$2.00 Child (6-8pm) \$1.50
- Punch Card Pass 5 Uses: Adults \$12.00
- Punch Card Pass 5 Uses: Child \$8.00

The pool can also be reserved for private parties. And be sure to stop by for our special events.

If you have any questions call the pool at 482.4401 or please contact Cathy Thorburn at 485-9457 or

catabates@hotmail.com



FOURTH ANNUAL ALL NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC



This year Candy Cane Park will be the site of the Fourth Annual All Neighborhood Associations Community Picnic sponsored by the City of Ypsilanti Community Policing Action Council (CoPAC). It is on Saturday, August 4 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm.

Everyone is invited. This free community picnic is hosted by several neighborhood associations each year. This year College Heights East Neighborhood Association and Gerganoff Neighborhood Association are hosting the picnic in Candy Cane Park.

Candy Cane park in the Northwest corner of the city on Roosevelt between Mansfield and Courtland, two blocks north of Washtenaw Ave. Enjoy free food, fun and games and a chance to meet and greet your friends and neighbors from throughout the city. Get a close-up look at police and fire vehicles, a visit by the Library Bookmobile, and more!

CoPAC includes representatives from all of the neighborhood associations, the Ypsilanti Police Dept., Chamber of Commerce, EMU and more. See www.ypsicopac.org for more information.

For more information, contact peterhubbard@comcast.net & candace@leavenostone.com.

HEALTHY FOOD IN YPSILANTI

We have been very fortunate at the Senior/Community Center to have many classes, demonstrations and other special events featuring good food. Last year's "Food for Life" program, Peter DiLorenzi's "Healthy Eating" series, and the very popular "Cooking 101" series with NPNA neighbors' **Andrea and Lucy Linn** have introduced us to healthy and tasty food that is fun to eat and good for us. These programs are free and open to everyone. We hope seniors and others in Normal Park take advantage of these programs and a host of free exercise classes at the Community/Senior Center.

We also encourage everyone to shop the variety of healthy grocery options in Ypsilanti. We have two Farmers' Markets. The Farmers' Market every Saturday morning at by the Freighthouse in Depot Town, and the Downtown Farmers' Market, now in its second year, on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 7:00 pm in the Key Bank parking lot at Michigan Ave. and Hamilton. This is convenient for the seniors who live in Towne Center, right across the street. A variety of fresh produce, homemade breads and other baked goods, as well as plants and flowers are right at their doorstep. Many folks in Normal Park can easily walk there, too. Last week we enjoyed some wonderful fresh flower bouquets and just-picked red leaf lettuce from the Midtown Community Garden.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op is also an option, on River Street in Depot Town, with canned and packaged foods as well as produce, and bread from the River St. bakery. The bread is also available at the Farmers' Markets.

Many neighbors have also welcomed the opening of the new Dos Hermanos Mexican grocery store, on Michigan Ave in the same block as Abe's Coney Island (where the old IGA used to be, and more recently an Asian market.) In addition to fresh tortillas, prepared tamales and other Mexican specialties, this friendly, clean, and well-stocked market carries a full line of groceries, at prices that can't be beat.

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NORMAL PARK IS MADE FOR WALKING

With rising gas prices, epidemic obesity, and climate change worries, many Americans realize they should walk more but find the design of their communities makes that difficult or impossible. Fortunately for us, Normal Park is a highly walkable neighborhood.

From morning to evening, pedestrians are out and about -- heading for school or work, keeping fit, pushing strollers, or walking dogs.

Unlike the adjoining townships and many newer developments, Normal Park has sidewalks (except for a few blocks), mostly shaded by mature trees. There are also alleys and Recreation Park as low impact alternatives to the street grid.

With the typical southeast Michigan family estimated to spend \$6000 per year on transportation, walking to work provides a big increase in disposable income, with health and environmental benefits an added advantage. This is why many residents are attracted to our neighborhood by the opportunity to walk to work at EMU, the four public schools, or downtown Ypsilanti or by the convenience of children being able to walk to elementary, middle, and high schools.

Walking in the neighborhood is an uncomplicated, economical way to get the moderate exercise -- usually defined as brisk thirty-minute walks five times a week -- recommended for a healthy heart. Besides keeping the cardiovascular system in tune and weight under control, research indicates that regular walking prevents or alleviates many common health problems, including diabetes, high blood pressure, back and joint pain, depression, and memory loss. In Normal Park, all you have to do is step out the door and put one foot in front of the other, with no required fees, training, or equipment, other than sturdy, comfortable shoes. As health guru Dr. Andrew Weill says, walking "requires no equipment, everyone knows how to do it, and it carries the lowest risk of injury."

Walking is adaptable to everyone's tastes as to routes and times. Some prefer to go on automatic pilot, taking the same walk daily, while others like to vary their routes and schedules. Some value quiet and solitude; others prefer human or canine companions or multitask with cellphones, Ipods, or Walkmans.

For those who don't routinely walk, there are various ways to add some walking to your life. A weekly walking club for all ages meets at the Senior Center Thursday mornings at 11. Within the neighborhood are many easy walks for errands or activities, such as the mailbox on Cross St., the meetings and activities at the Senior Center, Rutherford Pool, community gardens, playgrounds, churches, and even a dentist's office. Bordering Normal Park are a host of commercial and cultural destinations within a five to thirty minute walk. The commercial strip along Washtenaw offers newspapers, DVDs, takeout food, dry cleaning, and some convenience items; the most extensive stock of newspapers and convenience food, including dairy products, is at the gas station between Douglas and Marion. The EMU campus has concerts, plays, films, art shows, and a library, and the student center near Oakwood includes a bookstore, art gallery, bank branch and ATMs, food court with various fast

food outlets, and Ypsilanti's first Starbucks (note that hours vary with the academic schedule). Along Cross Street are several popular restaurants, an art supply store, used book store, the firehouse museum -- and before you know it you're in Depot Town. Downtown has the library, post office, historical museum, many restaurants, a hardware store, specialty shops, the Tuesday



farmers' market, and -- at last -- a grocery store. It also offers a busy cultural scene, with plays and an art gallery at the River Arts Center, outdoor concerts in the summer, and film series at the library.

For more varied or intensive walks, the surrounding area offers more opportunities to extend walking time and explore the city. To the west, the sidewalk along the south side of Cross Street goes as far as the high school. Within the schools campus, a sidewalk links the buildings, and a path goes through the woods. Shadford Field is popular with those who prefer walking laps on a track; the entrance is at the north end of the field.

To the north, the College Heights neighborhood offers quiet, gently sloping streets, a small park that can be entered from Roosevelt or Collegewood, and a wooded pedestrian/bike trail between Cornell and Hewitt, just north of Collegewood. East of College Heights, the EMU campus may appear to be covered with parking lots, but the center of campus has some pleasant walking areas that are especially peaceful on weekends. The area just north of the water tower is attractively landscaped, with sidewalks, benches, and sculptures. It contains EMU's oldest surviving buildings, dating from the 1890s, and some Art Deco structures designed by Gerganoff, the local architect responsible for some homes in Normal Park. A bit further north is a one-room schoolhouse relocated to the campus as a link to EMU's history of training teachers. Passing the schoolhouse, you are descending into a prehistoric lakebed left behind by the retreating glaciers of the Ice Age. Past Snow Health Center, a path rises to circle a small manmade lake that is a nice spot to walk laps, or you can take a break in the student center or the library, both of which have comfortable seating.

To the south, the Woods Road neighborhood makes a pleasant extension of a walk in Recreation Park. Walking up Woods to Summit provides a view of one of the city's finest old houses. From Summit to the east, the Midtown neighborhood is the stuff that dreams are made of for those who love old houses. Along Summit, Normal, Congress, and Pearl are many gems of American domestic architecture, such as the "New Orleans House" at 7 N. Normal with a sign dating it to 1848.

Following Normal to Washtenaw, a walker can go east to College Place, a cul-de-sac with a sidewalk outlet that goes back to Pearl. For a really good walk, Pearl or Congress can be taken to downtown or Riverside Park.

Are there any downsides for Normal Park walkers? Of course the volatile Michigan weather may disrupt walking plans. Icy sidewalks in winter, lack of sidewalks in some places, and hazardous street crossings can be problems. And some neighbors report that they stop to talk so often on their walks that they don't get much exercise, but since social networks also contribute to good health, the total benefits may be the same anyway.

HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

9 Wallace	\$129,800
912 Sheridan	\$129,800
208 Oakwood	\$135,000
1235 Washtenaw	\$139,900
1109 Westmoorland	\$157,000
1208 Grant	\$159,900
1219 Washtenaw	\$159,900
1314 Congress N	\$159,900
1115 Grant	\$164,900
952 Sherman	\$168,900
1211 Pearl	\$169,000
909 Sheridan	\$175,000
465 Mansfield N	\$175,900
905 Pleasant	\$179,000
1214 Sherman	\$179,900
205 Elm	\$179,900
915 Sherman Ct	\$179,900
916 Pearl	\$184,800
909 Pleasant	\$185,000
206 Wallace N	\$186,900
907 Pleasant	\$189,900
1315 Pearl	\$194,500
1005 Cross W	\$194,900
1101 Cross W	\$199,000
312 Wallace N	\$199,500
105 Oakwood	\$199,800
1111 Cross W	\$199,900
1301 Cross W	\$199,900
1310 Cross W	\$199,900
1505 Cross W	\$199,900
920 Pearl	\$199,900
1115 Pearl	\$199,983
1006 Cross W	\$200,000
1006 Pearl Street	\$206,000
1313 Cross St W	\$209,500
102 Wallace	\$219,900
960 Sherman	\$219,900
96 Oakwood	\$229,900
122 Linden Ct	\$239,900

The following homes have sold recently:

475 Owendale	\$130,000
1215 Washtenaw	\$133,400
214 Oakwood	\$148,500
1215 Pearl	\$154,900
473 Mansfield N	\$154,900
1220 Grant	\$162,000
440 Marion	\$162,500
1213 Westmoorland	\$170,000
115 Oakwood	\$175,000
924 Pearl Street	\$185,000
101 Elm	\$199,000
211 Elm	\$201,000
1109 Cross W	\$214,000

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 www.normalpark.org

- **Corn Roast Dinner** Jul 28
Community Center, Rec Park, 4:30 – 6:00 pm
- **NPNA Ice Cream Social** Aug 1
Community Center, Rec Park, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- **Ypsilanti Heritage Festival** Aug 17 - 19
Riverside Park
- **Fire Truck Muster** Aug 25
Riverside Park, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- **NPNA General Meeting** Oct 24
Community Center, Rec Park, 7:00 - 9:00 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.

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.