



# npna

normal park neighborhood association

normalpark.org

autumn 2007

## General Meeting Information

**Where:** Community/Senior Citizen Center Rec Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 7, 2007  
**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
**Speaker:** Coralie Johnson, author of *A Tree Grows in Trout Creek* and Dave Strenski, Solar Guru  
**Program:** Author Reading and Signing, Solar Energy Talk, and NPNA Elections

## NPNA GENERAL MEETING

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

Come on down to the Community/Senior Center at 1015 North Congress to catch up with your neighbors and enjoy a doubleheader of inspiration and information. We will meet at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, November 7; the meeting should end by 9:00 pm and light refreshments will be provided.

Our first speaker will be Congress Street neighbor **Coralie Johnson**, who will be reading from her book *A Tree Grows in Trout Creek*, recently published by Wildwood Press.

*A Tree Grows in Trout Creek* is a collection of stories about growing up in the Upper Peninsula. It will take you on a wild ride down Memory Lane with a star struck young girl as she finds her way through the foxy forties and fabulous fifties.

Coralie Johnson's work has appeared in such publications: Detroit News, McCall's, Woman's Day and Family Circle. She is retired from the University of Michigan and currently teaches as an adjunct lecturer for the Eastern Michigan University Women's Studies Program. She is also the author of *The Wishing Years*.

She will have copies available for sale and autograph.

Second up will be **Dave Strenski**, who will talk about the options of using solar panels for home and business heating and power. He will tell us about the solar panels installed at the Ypsilanti Food Co-op and the latest project to get solar panels installed on City Hall to provide power there.

We will also be holding the NPNA elections. Elected officials are Co-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Neighbors interested in joining the board (anyone is welcome!) or running for one of our elected offices should contact the NPNA as soon as possible.

Feel free also to contact us with questions about the events or elections. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

## 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](http://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!

## 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](http://normalpark.org). While there sign up for the NPNA Email News. To sign up send your email address to [listserv@normalpark.org](mailto:listserv@normalpark.org).

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



## NORMAL PARK HALLOWEEN PARADE

This year's Halloween Parade was held on Saturday, October 27. Though the weather looked like rain it managed to stay clear long enough for the children, parents and friends to march down Grant to the Community/Senior Center showing off their Halloween costumes.

At the Community/Senior Center everyone in costume had a chance to individually show off their costumes. Snacks and drinks were provided and everyone received a glow stick.

Special thanks go out to Ayron Douglas-Smith for keeping the parade alive and Lisa Bashert, Adrienne Meyer and Angela Scott for their help. Also, thank you to everyone else who helped out at the Community/Senior Center and everyone who marched in the parade and came out to watch.

## 1100 PEARL STREET BLOCK PARTY

by Ayron Smith-Douglas

Ask anyone why they choose Normal Park to live and you will quickly hear that old homes, old trees, and old neighborhoods are at the top of the list.

Old as in having history and roots: traditions. One of which was restored by the homes and families of the 1100 block of Pearl Street on Saturday, September 29, when the first re-annual street Block Party was held.

It turned out to present a few challenges: being rained out in August in our first attempt, and finding out that the street closing permit we thought was a free service had a fee attached. But the children's disappointment on our original date when the street in front of their home was all of a sudden not going to belong to them for a day was too much to bear.

I remember my own sons and then granddaughter looking forward all summer to the one day of the year they got to play in the street. And I was very touched on Saturday to see that while years may pass some very precious things do not change. Our block has newborns and toddlers, early elementary on up and they claimed their street while many an adult who may have been a stranger became a neighbor, resource, and potential friend. I also smiled knowing that being part of this community is worth paying the price.

We had a ball: from Darryl and Angie's barbecue to Tim and Donna's late night outdoor movie and bonfire, it was a wonderful new beginning. A few times I could even feel those who are now only with us in spirit, especially the number one block party champion Harold Fugate who died six and one half years ago. But up until the last he acted as if the Block Party was his Christmas. He knew everyone and never failed to have a kind word. I don't think we dared not keep the parties going for fear it would affect his health. But finally in his nineties he attended his last Pearl Street shindig. And now that we have resurrected his tradition, maybe he will stop nudging me until next year.

(Contact the NPNA for information about how you can hold your own block party next year!)

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Wednesday, August 1, was the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normal Park Neighborhood Association and like we do every year we celebrated with our annual Ice Cream Social. Residents of Normal Park came together for ice cream, games and community building.

Ice cream and toppings were plentiful as 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.

**Sarah Weiss** was the one step up to keep make the Ice Cream Social happen, helping with the organizational heavy lifting.

It was a great time. Thank you!

Amy Strutz  
Cell: 368-6945

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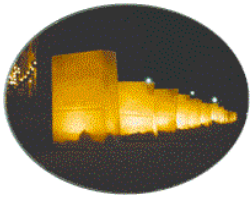


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## FIFTH ANNUAL NIGHT OF LIGHTS, DECEMBER 1



On Saturday, December 1, 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.

Date: Saturday, December 1 (Rain Date: Sunday, December 2), 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.

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, November 24th, 9:00 am to noon

Monday, November 26th, 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Questions? Please call: Rebecca Dunkle at 482-9330

## History of the Normal Park Neighborhood Association (Part 1)

(or, Message from an Old-Timer, Lisa Mills Walters)

I have a long-held interest in, and affection for, the Normal Park Neighborhood Association. Not only am I a longtime resident of Normal Park and one of its former City Council representatives, but I am also the longest-serving president of the NPNA and only charter board member still living in the neighborhood. I greatly enjoyed my time with the NPNA, and as new neighbors move in, I thought it might be a good time to look at how the association got its start and realize how far we've come.

The NPNA held its first general meeting on August 2, 1990. The idea for such a group, however, was born about a year earlier.

Many residents were concerned about traffic speed on Wallace and other streets in the neighborhood. Three of these neighbors, unaware of the existence of the others, independently contacted then-Ward Two councilmember Mike Homel for assistance. Mike, knowing there was strength in numbers and seeing an opportunity for the neighborhood, suggested that they get together and present a petition to the City Council. As the three worked on this, they realized that they had other goals and interests in common and that other neighbors probably did, too.

The first newsletter was published in May of 1990. At this time, the three volunteers proposed an association that would give residents the opportunity to socialize with each other and through which they could "improve the safety, quality, and appearance of our neighborhood." The newsletter also explained in detail the traffic/pedestrian concerns of the neighborhood and stated the exact wording of the petition.

Both the idea and the petition, which was submitted to the City Council that June, were a success. By the time the first NPNA meeting was held in Hefley Park on August 2, 1990, new stop signs had already been installed. Residents quickly got to work on plans to clean up Recreation Park, deal with issues regarding the party store on Congress Street, write a charter, and elect officials. The last finally occurred in January of 1991 when I and eleven other neighbors volunteered to serve on the board. We created committees to deal with Neighborhood Watch, Recreation Park, Membership, Fund-Raising, Social Events, and other issues. Residents were invited to inform the board of their concerns and what they saw as the role of the association.

Creating a name, logo, and signs for the association made for some interesting discussions. "Normal Park" is the legal description of the area on or east of Wallace Boulevard; the west part of our neighborhood is called "Orchard Park," but because of the history of the Michigan Normal School (EMU) and the fact that the majority of neighbors lived within the area designated as Normal Park, we went with that name. (EMU was originally, of course, the first teacher-training school west of the Alleghenies, and the term "normal" alluded to the norms that were to be taught by all educators.)

*(The History of the NPNA will be continued in the next issue or you can read it in on our website at [normalpark.org](http://normalpark.org).)*

### Your neighborhood schools are Strong from Start to Finish!

Your schools offer after school enrichment programs, collaborate with local organizations to promote citizenship and partnerships with University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and Washtenaw Community College provide big-picture opportunities.



Chapelle Community School, 111 S. Wallace St, 714-1700  
Estabrook Elementary School, 1555 W. Cross St., 714-1900  
West Middle School, 105 N. Mansfield St., 714-1300



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## HOMES FOR SALE/HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

260 Mansfield	\$71,000
1127 N Congress	\$114,900
1123 N Congress	\$129,900
9 Wallace	\$119,800
912 Sheridan	\$129,900
1208 Grant	\$145,000
1109 Westmoorland	\$147,900
952 Sherman	\$159,900
1115 Grant	\$159,900
1211 Pearl	\$169,000
916 Pearl	\$173,500
1301 W Cross	\$174,900
920 Pearl	\$174,900
915 Sherman Ct	\$179,900
1101 Cross W	\$189,000
1315 Pearl	\$189,900
1310 W Cross	\$189,900
907 Grant	\$189,900
907 Pearl	\$195,000
110 N Wallace	\$196,000
312 N Wallace	\$199,500
1505 W Cross	\$199,900
1006 W Cross	\$200,000
960 Sherman	\$219,900
1216 Grant	\$225,000
96 Oakwood	\$229,900

The following homes have sold recently:

208 Oakwood	\$124,000
214 Oakwood	\$150,600
101 Elm	\$199,000
1313 Cross	\$197,000

**Elisa Guyton**, an NPNA resident and agent at Trillium Real Estate, provides the above information. Please do not hesitate to contact her at (734) 476-5432 or [elisa@trilliumrealtors.com](mailto:elisa@trilliumrealtors.com) with any questions.

## 2007 BOARD MEMBERS/CHAIRPERSONS

Co-President:	Sean Stidd	483-8301
Co-President:	Open	
Secretary:	Open	
Treasurer:	Rebecca Dunkle	482-9330
CoPAC:	Sarah Devaney	480-9018
Greenscape Chair:	Open	
Social Chair /	Jeff Guyton	239-4624
New Neighbor:		
Newsletter/Website:	Joe Capuano	483-6091
Zoning/Ordinance:	Joe Schultz	484-1314
At-large members:	Megan Brown	482-2181
	Patrick McLean	485-5852
	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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more additional information visit [normalpark.org](http://normalpark.org)

- **General Election** Nov 6  
Polls are open 7:00 am – 8:00 pm
- **NPNA General Meeting** Nov 7  
Community Center, Rec Park, 7:30 pm
- **Shadow Art Fair** Dec 1  
Corner Brewery, 12:00 pm – 12:00 am
- **Normal Park Night of Lights** Dec 1  
Normal Park Neighbourhood, 6:00 pm
- **Heritage Holidays & Holiday Home Tour** Dec 1 & 2  
Ypsilanti
- **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

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

## 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](http://normalpark.org).

## LAST NOTE

In 1973 in celebration of Ypsilanti's sesquicentennial special coins were minted. It features profiles of founder Benjamin Woodruff and namesake Demetrius Ypsilanti on one side and the famous water tower on the reverse.

Ypsilanti *"the best well known small town in the US!"*

