



## Near Westside Neighborhood Association, Inc.

“Friends Helping Neighbors”

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### 2015 Annual Report



### *PRESIDENT'S REPORT*



Another great year for Near Westside!

I'm always amazed at what can be accomplished with a small group of committed folks working together for a cause. It was exactly that kind of group that originally formed the Near Westside Neighborhood Association almost 40 years ago! Here we are, still adapting to the needs of the community as time moves on, and collaborating to continue to make Elmira a great place to be.

This year we were able to complete our “One House at a Time” project at 355 Davis Street, right next to our office. There are two apartments upstairs, and downstairs is "Brackets & Door Knobs". This will be a place where people who are restoring their homes can find period appropriate pieces to do the work the right way. We will be selling architectural salvage items such as doors, moldings, and yes, brackets and door knobs.

The Clinton-Columbia Historic District was officially designated on the National Register of Historic Places in June, helping to highlight even more of Elmira's rich history.

This year we were able to capitalize on a number of partnerships. We continue to work very closely with Historic Elmira as we begin to work on the Richardson-Kennedy Preservation Project. Right now we are working with the project and design teams. You'll be seeing all kinds of activity over there really soon. We are also planning a community event in May, which is historic preservation month. It's been a couple of years since we've had a block party, and it seems like now is a good time for another one. We'll be working with Historic Elmira to put together a day of fun while showcasing what the neighborhood has to offer. We will soon have a new version of our walking tour map available, as well (yet another collaboration - this one with Historic Elmira and the Chamber of Commerce).

Of course, we will still be holding River Fest in June, Elmira Blooms in July, and our 32nd Holiday Home Tour in December. Our Victorian Row Park & Community Garden is continuing to grow. We've already enjoyed some apples off the trees!

With the ongoing support of the community we will be able to keep doing amazing things!

*Laurie Desmarais*

Board President

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## 2015

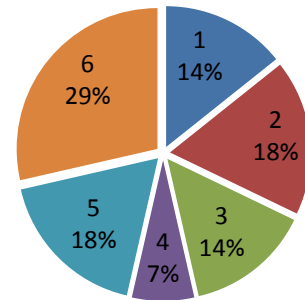
*The year in review*

This past year, we continued to administer our affordable housing programs throughout the City of Elmira. These programs include owner-occupied and rental rehabilitation, a paint program, and an ADA accessibility program designed in partnership with CVAC. Following is the breakdown of funding, either directly from or leveraged by NWNA's programs, that benefited our neighborhoods in 2015:

**Funding sources:**

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| AHC                                      | \$195,815.00               |
| CHDO/HOME                                | \$140,955.00               |
| Urban Initiatives                        | \$110,310.00               |
| CDBG                                     | \$123,118.00               |
| CVAC                                     | \$ 709.00                  |
| Other NWNA Program Funds                 | \$ 1,788.00                |
| Owner investment                         | \$ 23,629.00               |
| <b>Total funds awarded and leveraged</b> | <b><u>\$596,324.00</u></b> |

### NWNA investment per council district



### “One House at a Time”

Our most recent project was completed using a combination of State (Urban Initiatives) and Federal (CHDO/HOME) funds. Extensive renovations were required to save this building. West Construction was awarded the job and Brian Westerfer and his crew made short order of the repairs despite numerous surprises. The completed project now features 2 beautifully renovated one-bedroom affordable housing apartments on the second floor, and an open concept first floor commercial space.



### Richardson-Kennedy House Preservation Project

2015 has involved a substantial amount of behind the scenes work to prepare bid specifications for the work at 359 West Church Street. Having received design approval from the State OPRHP and Local Historic Preservation Commission, we will be ready to go to bid in February. The work to be undertaken includes selective demolition, a new roof, and restoration/replacement of deteriorated wood trim and masonry chimneys.



### 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Home Tour



Once again the Holiday Home Tour was a great success. This year the tour showcased 6 homes plus a “restoration in progress” and Trinity Episcopal Church which was open for touring and was the host for the dessert reception. The featured homes were 690 W Clinton St., 303 W Church St., 435 W Clinton St., 301 W Clinton St., 610 W Gray St., 510 W Gray St., with 373 W First St. being our restoration in progress. Additionally 355 Davis St. was open displaying some antiques, and various items for sale giving the tour participants an opportunity to take in the completed renovations. We would like to extend a special thank you to all the homeowners who opened their homes for the tour participants and a big thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers who helped make this event so



successful!

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Elmira Blooms

Once again we had a beautiful day for the tour. The 2015 tour featured gardens at 418 W Water St., 402 W Water St., 152 W Washington Ave., 424 W Church St., 41 Meadow Lane, Pine City, 25 Hickory Lane, Pine City, 991 Pauline Ave, Pine City as well as a stop at Victorian Row Park & Community Garden to

see our progress. Each year, this self-guided tour features lovingly created, distinct, and original gardens in and around the City of Elmira with a stop at Chamberlain Acres for light refreshments and your garden shopping pleasure! Special thanks and appreciation goes out to Olivia (Livie) Trexler for all the work and dedication she puts into this event each year for us. If you would like to showcase your garden, or know of someone who would, please contact us at 607-733-4924.



### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual River Fest

River Fest is a community sponsored event that is hosted by NRNA. River Fest provides a great opportunity for the community to be close to and even on the river to experience its natural beauty and charm. Live music was provided by local musician Pat Comstock and local band BigFoot. Fest

participants enjoyed great food, vendors, and a variety of demonstrations, exhibits and activities, including free beginner kayak and canoe lessons from River Friends & the AWAHGA Canoe & Kayak Club. The Aquatic Science Lab and the Cornell Raptor Program were also featured in 2015. We've got some great plans for River Fest 2016, so mark your calendar for Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM – we hope to see you at the river!



## Volunteer Opportunities at NWNA

**Advisory Board:** The Advisory Board will be comprised of low and moderate-income residents whose presence will make a positive contribution to the goals of NWNA. The Advisory Board will provide input to NWNA regarding its design, location of sites, development, and management of affordable housing programs. The Advisory Board will also develop a needs assessment questionnaire and conduct neighborhood surveys. If you, or anyone you know, would like to participate in the Advisory Board, or for more information, please contact NWNA at 733-4924 or e-mail [nearwestside@stny.rr.com](mailto:nearwestside@stny.rr.com).

**Brackets & Doorknobs:** If you are interested in architectural salvage, collectibles, and antiques, give us a call. Volunteers are needed to help organize & research donated salvage items for our shop.

**Victorian Row Park & Community Garden:** If you are looking for a Spring/Summer project and you enjoy gardening, "VRP" is for you. Dig in and get your hands dirty! Join us for building, planting, weeding, watering, and just plain having a good gardening time! Stop by and watch us "grow".

**General Office:** If you have an interest in typing, filing, and organizing, NWNA is interested in your help!

Don't forget these **free and easy** ways to support NWNA every day - use [GoodSearch](#) when you search the internet – they will donate a penny to us every time you search and use [GoodShop.com](#) when you shop online – they work with more than 2,500 major brands, have over 100,000 coupons and donate a percentage of every purchase you make to us!

We want to extend a special thank you to our sponsors and supporters and a reminder to everyone to **shop local!** *A.I.R.CO. Party Central, Associated Massage Therapists of the Twin Tiers, Applebees, B & C Photo, Banfield~Baker Corporation, BOB the jar guy, Chamberlain Acres, Chemung Canal Trust Co., Chemung Valley Audubon Society, The Christmas House, Cloud 9 Wellness, Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Crystal City Wedding & Party Center, Coca – Cola Co., Davis Garden Center, DeMet's Candy Company, Drift Spa @ NYBBS, Elm Chevrolet, Eva's Designs, Famous Brands, Field & Stream, First Heritage FCU, Floral Fantasy, F.M. Howell & Company, Glenn Westerfer Masonry, Good Year, Grace's Crafts & Creations, Griswold's Flowers, Happy Hippo, Haskins Gardens, Hesselson's, Hilliard, Journey Fitness, Just Us, Kennedy Valve, Lighthouse Liquors & Wines of Southport, Light's Bakery, Lowe's, Mann's Country Gardens, Massi's Gardens & Landscaping, Morey's E-sales, Multi Media Services, Nickle Creek Bait & Tackle Shop, Oldies But Goodies, Perry & Carroll Insurance, Ramsdell Video Productions, R.S. Parker Landscaping, Red Knickers' Herbs, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Seneca Beverage, Shane Searfoss @ Realty USA, Simmons Rockwell, Texas Roadhouse, Tractor Supply Co., Turtle Leaf Café, Valu Home Centers, Visions Federal Credit Union, Walgreens, N. Main Street, Walmart, Weis Markets, WINGS 104.9 & Zeigler Florists.*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members, volunteers, & members for all their hard work over the past year which helped make 2015 a success and we look forward to working and celebrating with you all again throughout 2016.

*Beth Farn*

Executive Director

*Lorena Morey*

Program Coordinator

“Like” us on facebook, and watch for our next bus trip.  
Enjoy raffles along the way and a whole lot of fun!

Visit [www.nwnainc.com](http://www.nwnainc.com) to donate via PayPal  
or mail your donation to:

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353 Davis Street  
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