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Near Westside Neighborhood Association, Inc.  
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“Community Service in Response to Community Need”

The Near Westside Neighborhood Association, Inc. will celebrate its 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary with a party to raise funds for a signature restoration project.

Incorporated as a non-profit in 1978, the Near Westside Neighborhood Association, Inc. (NWNNA) shows the truth of anthropologist Margaret Mead’s inspiring words from the same year, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Gray Street residents weren’t trying to change the world. They came together to do something about their deteriorating neighborhood. Largely as a result of multi-faceted and devoted volunteer work, and the advocacy of the NYS Division for Historic Preservation, in December 1983 the U.S. Department of the Interior listed the Near Westside Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District. It is the second largest concentration of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> C. residences in New York State, noteworthy for its diverse architectural styles.

Aided by Federal, State, and Foundation funds, NWNNA has developed a variety of programs for revitalizing the neighborhood, including loans and grants for housing rehabilitation (information from NWNNA web site). The NWNNA serves all of Elmira, successfully collaborating with other not-for-profit programs, such as Catholic Charities First Time Home Buyers Program and BOCES. More information about programs and services at [www.nwnnainc.com](http://www.nwnnainc.com)

NWNNA’s biggest and most visible on-going historic restoration/rehabilitation project is the Richardson Kennedy House (circa 1861) at 359 W. Church Street, a collaborative effort first championed by George L. Howell, the late Founder and Chairperson of Historic Elmira, Inc. (HE, Inc.) Phase I was completed in 2019 using a \$400 K grant and additional funds raised primarily by Historic Elmira, Inc. Funds raised during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration on March 12<sup>th</sup> co-sponsored by Historic Elmira, Inc. will support Phase II, the completion of historically accurate exterior work, in keeping with George L. Howell’s commitment to the NWNNA, Inc. and the Elmira community. With Phase II completed, the building will be available for purchase as a commercial/residential property. Fortunately, the building interior will not be subject to the same rigorous Historic Preservation standards.

For Further Information Contact: Kaye C. Newbury, Founding Member and Past President of Historic Elmira, Inc.; Current NWNNA, Inc. Board Member  
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