

East Lawrence News

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 442393 Lawrence, Kansas - eastlawrence@yahoo.com

www.eastlawrence.com

November 2021



ELNA

General Meeting
November 8th 7-9pm
Online via Zoom

Agenda

always available at <http://www.eastlawrence.com/meetings>
Email Phil at phil@pcollison.com
for zoom link info

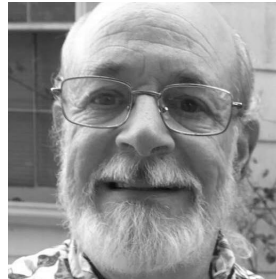
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From the President

Barry Shalinsky

It is November, which means it is election time. I wrote this column in advance of the General Election. We now know the likely results of who will have seats on the Lawrence City Commission and USD 497 School Board. While I didn't know specifically who they would be as of this writing, I can say with confidence that 1) they are good people who care about our community, and 2) the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association (ELNA) looks forward to working collaboratively with them to make sure that the best interests of our residents, and particularly our kids are well considered in their decision making.

It is also election time for the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association. Per our bylaws, nominations for ELNA Board positions were taken at our October meeting, and the members can put their seal of approval on the nominees at our November meeting. Unlike that earlier election, we have a good idea who our ELNA Board members will be.

While we are very happy that three new Board members will be joining us, we are not happy that three of our current members will be leaving the Board. We will miss the perspectives and contributions made by the departing Board members, Anna McCoy, Boog Highberger and Suzan Hampton. They all have their reasons for moving on, but Suzan's reason is particularly sad to me. Suzan and her spouse are pursuing their dream of owning and fixing up a single-family home. There was a time when hard-working people could look to East Lawrence as the place to put down roots and build their dreams. This neighborhood is full of such people. Unfortunately, when Suzan and her spouse went looking for their forever home, it was not to be found in East Lawrence, and they moved north of the river. Fortunately, Suzan has not given up on looking for a home in East Lawrence in the future.

We were once the neighborhood with the best affordable housing values in Lawrence, particularly for people willing to roll up their sleeves. Sadly, that is becoming less true. ELNA strives to create a welcoming presence for all who live here or move here, regardless of their background or personal circumstances. We also remain very committed to our 150-year roots and history as a diverse and affordable community. We will do our best to make sure that our newly elected officials are mindful of the importance of maintaining that delicate balance as well.

ELNA Board Elections

Please join us on zoom Monday November 8th from 7-9pm for our Annual Meeting. At this meeting, the ELNA Board and attending membership will vote to accept the slate of candidates for the 2021-2022 Board.

Candidates who declared their intention to run for the Board at our October ELNA meeting include: incumbents Dave Loewenstein, Brenda Nunez, Barry Shalinsky, Aaron Paden, Phil Collison, Pam Blackburn, KT Walsh, Scacie Lambertson, and Josh Davis, along with newcomers Kate Lowder, Krista Gentry, and Juliana Patterson.

You can always find the ELNA meeting agenda on our website: eastlawrence.com > join > meetings. On that page you'll find a link to the agenda, a google doc, with the current items for discussion and zoom info at the top.

Construction Projects

All around East Lawrence, there are, or will be construction projects, both large and small. Here are several of them that ELNA has been actively monitoring, and participating in or commenting on.

At the top of our list is the Wishing Bench at Ninth and Delaware. The Wishing Bench now sports a new deck, with accessible ramp, and a colorful new roof, thanks to the generosity of two construction companies based in Perry, the NR Hamm Company and Diamond Everley Roofing. With wonderful support from the community, the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association gets things done!

Just to the southeast of the Wishing Bench, work is proceeding in earnest on the multi-use pathway that provides one of the missing links in the Lawrence Loop that encircles most of the city. This segment, from Ninth and Delaware through Hobbs Park will connect with the Burroughs Creek segment that goes through Haskell Indian Nations University, connecting with another new segment to the Wetlands.

Final approvals are in the works for construction of a splash pad at Fifteenth Street and the Burroughs Creek Trail. Lawrence's first splash pad, in the southeastern corner of East Lawrence, will also serve nearby residents of the Brook Creek and Barker neighborhoods, Edgewood Homes, and trail users throughout Lawrence.

Liberty Memorial Central Middle School anchors the southwestern corner of East Lawrence. The charm of LMCMS is that it has an urban campus, whereas other Lawrence middle schools are more suburban. LMCMS does not have acres of parking and long driveways for drop off and pick up of students. Anyone with a student at LMCMS, or who uses Fourteenth Street during certain times of the day, experiences the traffic impacts of this. USD 497 will be reconfiguring the north parking lot off of Fourteenth Street to allow for another 3-5 cars at a time to be on site and off of the street, with no loss of green space. This should help with a difficult traffic flow situation.

Things are happening on both sides of the Santa Fe / AmTrak depot. Work is proceeding again on a new parking lot southeast of the depot. Work stopped several months ago when a historic brick surface was found in the footprint of the new lot. The lot was redesigned to incorporate the brick as part of the surface, and work has re-started. West of the depot, the City is removing and rebuilding part of a new fountain that did not quite turn out as expected. This is the most recent example of what can happen when the city contracts for a project without providing adequate specifications. The brick work along the rebuilt Ninth Street, that will need to be redone correctly, is a more expensive example.

As we reported in the last edition of this newsletter, there will be a major water line replacement going north to south through the heart of East Lawrence. The recommended route appears to be along New Jersey Street from Eighth to Thirteenth Streets, west along Thirteenth, and then south along New York Street to Fifteenth. There will be bore holes every block or two to run the pipe, but fortunately not one big trench along the entire route. This will result in less damage to historic infrastructure and other disruptions. ELNA will provide updated information as it becomes available.

The biggest current construction project in East Lawrence, and one of the biggest ever in the neighborhood, is the Penn Street Lofts, a mixed-use project at 801 Pennsylvania, which is nearing completion. ELNA spent countless hours in meetings and making official public comments regarding size and scale, specific uses, parking and other matters. As often happens with projects of this scale, opinions of neighbors vary widely. Hopefully, no matter where any individual's opinion fits along the spectrum, most can agree that ELNA's vigilant monitoring and input has resulted in a better project.

St. Luke AME Church at Ninth and New York has been a significant cultural institution in East Lawrence since 1910. It is one of the few remaining places in Lawrence with a physical connection to Langston Hughes, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Extensive renovations have taken place in recent years, and are nearing completion. Work has stabilized the building, its brick walls and towers, created an accessible entrance on Ninth Street, repaired the windows, including the stained-glass windows, repaired the wooden louvers on the towers and more. Many generous partners have collaborated to make the project possible through their work and donations, including the Lawrence Preservation Alliance, architect Stan Hernly, the Shelley Miller Charitable Trust, Jeff and Mary Weinberg, the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund, Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council, and church trustees.

Holiday Adopt a Family 2021, Non-Food Drive, Merch Sale

ELNA will organize an Adopt a Family for the Holidays project again this year. Like years past, we'll adopt one large family through ECKAN. But, unlike years past, we will purchase gift cards instead of presents to wrap for our family. In the coming weeks we'll hear from ECKAN about what gift cards our family would like, and a date by which we must have all our contributions collected. If you'd like to be included in informational emails about the project, and you aren't already on our Adopt a Family list, please contact Lane by email at eastlawrence@yahoo.com.

New this year, we'd also like to collect non-food items for our local pantries. Things like laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper, menstruation needs, can openers, cough drops, bandaids, etc, can not be purchased with food stamps, and are in high demand. So, if you'd like to purchase an actual item instead of (or in addition to) a gift card, you are invited to purchase a non-food item.

Merch Sale! Because it would be nice to see your faces and sell some ELNA merchandise (just in time for the holidays!) we'll host a pop up sale on Saturday December 4th, from 2-4pm, hopefully at the Murphy Brommelsick House. We'll have ELNA graphic tees and hoodies, Possum Lady tees, tanks, and hoodies, Wishing Bench tees, and if we can get our poor selves together, *new* Shelley Miller Memorial tees. You'll like them. Think retro. At this pop up, you can bring your Adopt a Family contribution, something for the non-food drive, AND score some ELNA merch. Very efficient.

Just so you know how all this works -- after our Adopt a Family gift cards and non-food items are all collected, we'll deliver them. We'll take the gift cards for our family to ECKAN and let them deliver to the family. Depending on what and how much we collect for non-food items, we'll take those to the Sunrise Shelf and potentially some school pantries. And, if you miss out on getting the ELNA merch you need, you can always email Lane.

Marathon Route

The Kansas Half Marathon is being held Sunday, November 14th at 7am. Runners will proceed through East Lawrence through the route shown below. Minor traffic delays are expected. The westbound lane of 7th St. (from Mass to New Jersey) and 8th St. (from New Jersey to Delaware), as well as the northbound lane of Delaware (from 8th to 11th) will be closed to traffic while runners are present (intermittently from 7 to 8:30 am); cross traffic will be permitted. Parking and access is not anticipated to be affected. Please contact the race director, Matt O'Reilly (oreilly3@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns-the Kansas Half Marathon does not want to inconvenience anyone!

Volunteer opportunities are also available for those wishing to help out-contact Matt O'Reilly for more information.



Wishing Bench Update

Our Wishing Bench has been repaired! With big help from Hamm Construction and Diamond Everley Roofing, plus a slew of donors and well wishers. We had a small re-dedication event on Saturday September 25th. Friends and neighbors came to redress our bench, including the youth art collective from the Lawrence Arts Center, Hang 12, and a New York Elementary art class with their creative idea drawings of what the Wishing Bench *could* be. Go check it out at 9th and Delaware and make a wish!

Thanks to: Mick Palmer, Tony Krsnich, Mike Pearson, Ginger Chance, Catherine Meihaus, Courtney Shipley, Andrew Brashers, Marlo Angell, Tony Peterson, Eric Jay, Richie Backus/Slimmers, Karl Ramberg, Irene Tsuneta, Janey Barton, Chloe Jones, Kelly Parry, Jesse Barlow, Molly Fuller, Robin Tripkos, Frank Janzen, Deanna Riddle, Guy Wunder, Gryffin Eason, Anne Werring, Eliza Darmon, Phil Dos Santos, Richard Kershenbaum, Tessa and Opal, Jennifer Burkhead, Matt Williams, Linda Cottin/Cottin's Hardware, A-Team Construction, Deborah Altus, Dorothy Nary, Julia Ogle, Judith Roitman, Lindsey Siegle, Amanda Thow, Caryn Mirriam Goldberg, Vickie Knight / Jeff Hatfield, KT Walsh, Brad Gibson, and to Tony Peterson, Suzan Hampton, and Barry Shalinsky for the photos.

Thanks, Block Party 2021

Beer: Lawrence Beer Co, *Burgers:* Hilary Burgers -- veggie burgers

Volunteers & Donors: Tony Backus, Brad Eldridge, Michael Davis, Aaron Paden, Bill Dodd, Rhino!, Edmund Stansbury, Josh Davis, Marshall Maude, Zippy, Phil Collision, Anil Kamat & Lilly Mason, David Paden, Arlo Paden, Eric Farnsworth, Mike Riehm, Christian Beer, Barry Shalinsky, Twila Brooks, Lisa Marie Benke, Suzan Hampton, Allison Plumb, Krista Gentry, Michelle Needham, Heather Eldridge, Laura Ann Green, Mike Rundle, Tony Peterson, KT Walsh and Brad Gibson, Cari Davis, Lawrence Arts Center's Hang 12 info table, Jeff Eaton and Pride of Gumbo printing services

Music: Mick Palmer, Bopaphonics -- Robert Baker, Roger Holden, Mark vonSchlemmer, Clark Jamison, Sugarfoot Detour -- Byron James, John Lomas, Colby Earlywine, Mick Palmer

Raffle Items: Frank Janzen, Weavers, Party America, Boog Highberger, KPR, Cindy Trask and Gotfred Beardshear of Blackbird Trading Post, Cottin's Hardware, LadyIronbeard, Jungle House, Alicia Kelly, Andy Smith, Sheri Ellenbecker and Ellenbecker Imports -- textiles, Dave Loewenstein, Paula Schumacher, Game Nut, Au Marche, O'Reilly Auto, McDonalds, Framewoods, KT Walsh

Hello! Welcome!

The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association has revamped our mailing list and updated our mailing labels. As a result, some of you may be receiving this newsletter for the first time. We strive to deliver to every residential, business and institutional address in the neighborhood, as well as our community partners and friends. If you know of anyone who should be receiving this and isn't, please let us know by emailing eastlawrence@yahoo.com. If you appreciate receiving this newsletter, we are always grateful to receive contributions to help defray printing and mailing costs. Please see our website at www.eastlawrence.com to contribute online, or mail your contribution to ELNA, PO BOX 442393, Lawrence, KS 66044. Thanks!

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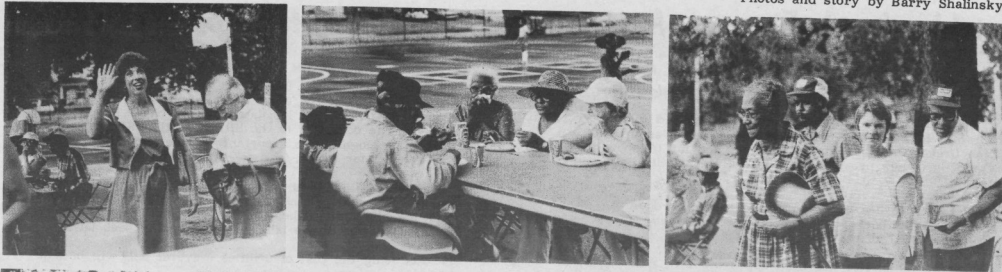
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1983 East Lawrence Picnic:

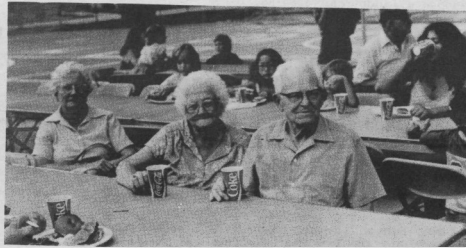
Photos and story by Barry Shalinsky



A rare summer rain did not dampen the success of the 1983 East Lawrence Picnic. As always, a delicious meal donated by area businesses, prepared and catered by E.L.I.A. volunteers, was the centerpiece of the picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian grainburgers, baked beans, chips, soft drinks and dessert were served without charge to the multitudes. Many of those in attendance purchased a membership in E.L.I.A.

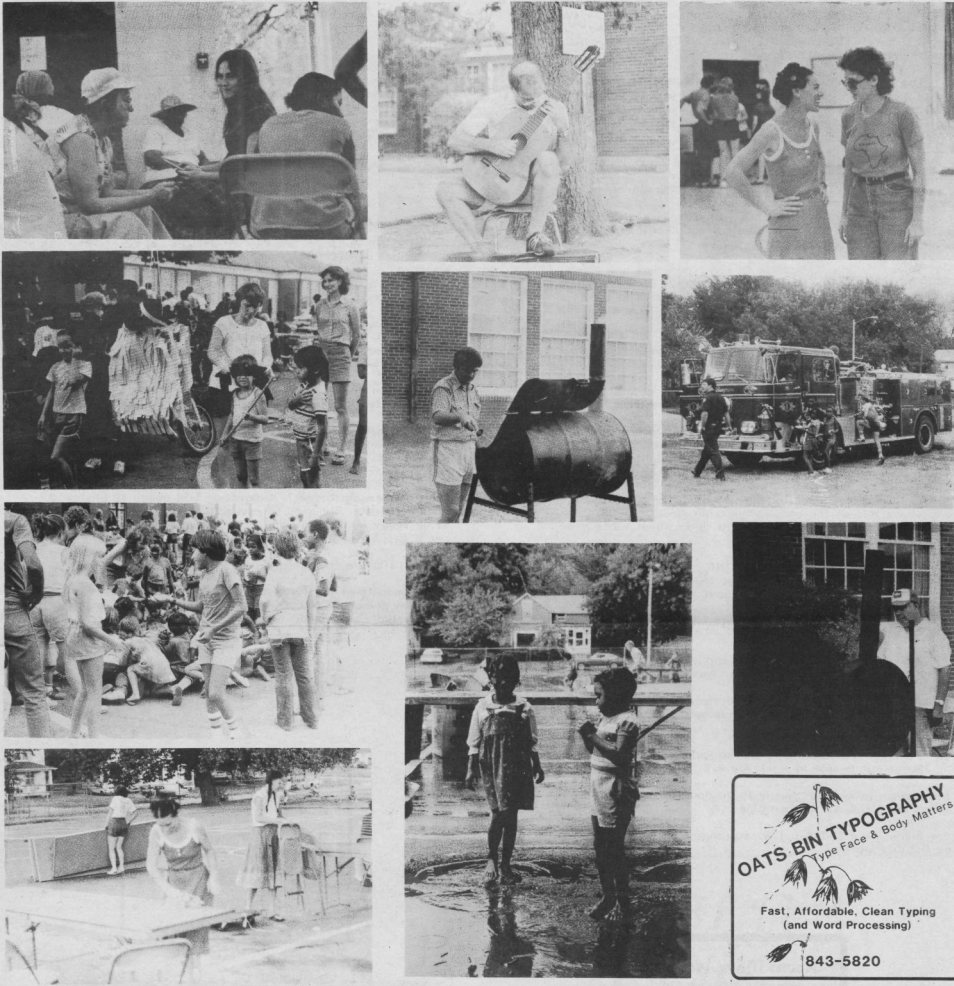
In addition to the food, music was provided by Clyde Byson's dixieland band and Steve Gnagy on guitar.

The kids kept busy with a piñata, climbing on a city fire truck and using the New York School playground. Kids and adults played BINGO.



EAST LAWRENCE NEWS / 11

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Upcoming events at Sunrise!

Interested in volunteering? Need a delivery? Want some more info? Email ella@sunriseprojectks.org

Coats and Coffee

Saturday Nov. 20, 10am-12:30pm

Join us for Coffee & Coats: a Fundraiser and Coat Drive!

We will be serving coffee, hot cocoa, and breakfast treats to raise funds for our Sunrise Project programs. We will also be collecting coats, hats, gloves, scarves, hand warmers, and other Winter essentials to store on our Porch Pantry this season!

This is an outdoor event, so bundle up! You're welcome to take your coffee and treats to go, or enjoy a breezy Saturday morning at one of our picnic tables. Being mindful of the environment, we encourage visitors to bring their own reusable coffee cup or mug.

GET INVOLVED

We are looking to partner with a local coffeeshop, roastery, or bakery for this event! If you or your business would be interested in donating coffee or baked goods, please contact our Director of Programs at ella@sunriseprojectks.org

If you'd like to volunteer at the event, or contribute some homemade baked goods (muffins, croissants, danishes, etc.) please contact our Director of Programs at ella@sunriseprojectks.org

Thank you! See you there!

Community Meal Wednesday Nov. 17 5-6 pm

Fall Celebration dinner - menu TBD check our website and FB for updates!

Safe Winter Walkways

We are accepting volunteers for Safe Winter Walkways for the 2021-2022 winter season!

Preparing snow routes for pedestrian traffic

The Safe Winter Walkways Program is an excellent resource for members of our community who are physically unable to keep their sidewalks clear during snow events. The goal is to create safer and more accessible pedestrian walkways, and it is a structured version of what already happens in many neighborhoods – neighbors helping neighbors.

Lawrence residents with a passion for helping others and who enjoy winter weather (and shoveling snow) are needed to volunteer for the Safe Winter Walkways Program. Volunteers are matched with residents needing assistance, and the program makes every effort to match volunteers with residents in their neighborhoods. All volunteers are asked to commit to the entire snow season and be willing to shovel after each winter weather event. Volunteers are not required to provide snow removal for private driveways, sidewalks or walkways, but they may choose to also clear those areas.

The Safe Winter Walkways is a program provided by the City of Lawrence and the Senior Resource Center for Douglas County.

Volunteers

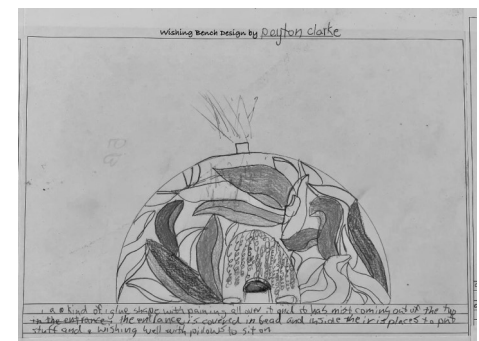
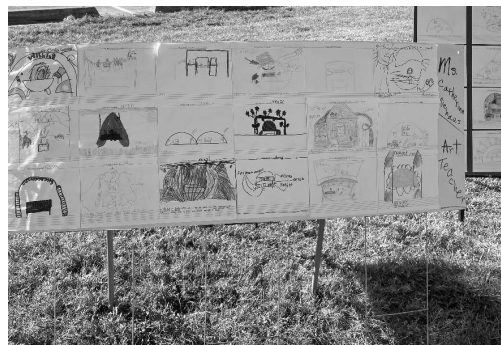
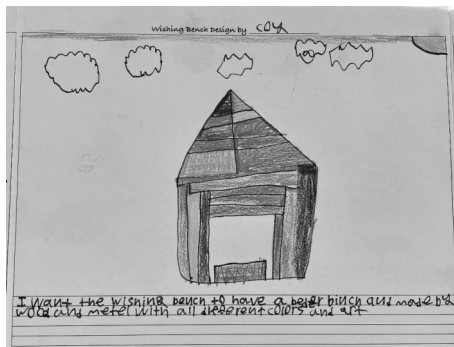
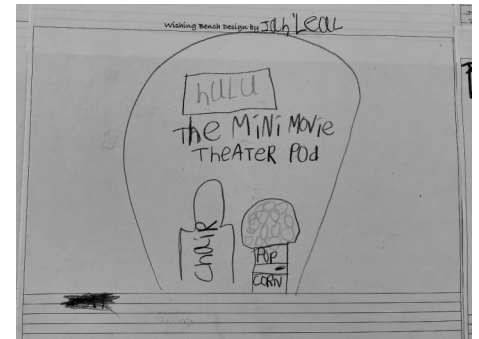
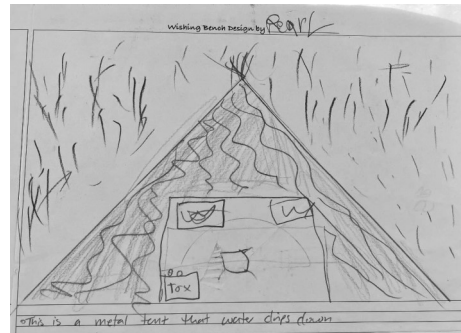
To volunteer to help Lawrence residents who can't physically shovel their sidewalks, fill out and submit the sign up form at: <https://lawrenceks.org/safe-winter-walkways/> or call (785) 727-7875.

Residents

November 19, 2021 is the deadline for registering for assistance with Safe Winter Walkways.

Please direct questions to Larry Woydziak at the Senior Resource Center for Douglas County, (785) 727-7875.

The Wishing Bench, as reimagedined by New York Elementary students



Join ELNA for \$1.00

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD – GET A BIG BANG FOR A BUCK!

Your \$1.00 membership in ELNA and contact information help us represent East Lawrence in our city and county government and to meet the needs of our neighborhood. Support us. Let us support you.

\$100.00 lifetime membership \$5.00 for out-of-neighborhood members
 \$20.00 for in-neighborhood businesses \$10.00 for in-neighborhood non-profits
(Please note personal memberships are per individual, not household.)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- We print the names of new and returning ELNA members in the ELNA newsletter . Check here if it is okay to print your name.
- Please add my email to the “Thursday ELNA News” (the weekly enewsletter) email list.

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ELNA Needs Your Help! Please Volunteer!

Mark what ELNA events / skills you would like to volunteer for:

- Work Days / Snow Shoveling
- YART Sale
- Block Party
- Adopt-A-Family
- Music
- Art
- Photography
- Gardening
- Historic Preservation
- Serving on the ELNA Board
- Baking/Cooking
- Grilling / Concessions
- Other: _____



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