



Left, Art and Jean Bernd grew vegetables, fruit and flowers in their four-lot garden in the West Jewels neighborhood. When they moved, they sold the space to Lancaster city, asking for it to remain green space. It's now a community garden. Clockwise from above, a rose bush and apple tree are from the original garden; a banana pepper grows in the community garden.



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER PHOTOS

||||| GARDEN |||||

PROVIDING PRODUCE

Community garden helps residents connect, learn and grow their own vegetables, fruit

ERIN NEGLEY | ENEGLEY@LNPNEWS.COM

When Kelly Slippey moved to West Lancaster Jewels eight years ago, a friend told her about the neighborhood's secret garden. "She took us over here, and we were just like blown away," Slippey says. "You wouldn't know it's here, unless you knew it's here."

Sandwiched between Bay Street and two alleys was quite a garden. The space had tidy rows of vegetables and two apple trees at the side. It was surrounded by grass paths and protected by a fence dotted with cascading roses. Spreading over four building lots, the garden looked more like a farmette in a neighborhood with little public green space.

For decades, this space has provided food and community: first as Depression-era victory gardens and then as a couple's hobby. It's now

Lancaster's newest community garden. At Bay Street Community Garden, people continue to grow, learn and connect. Lancaster plans to use what happens here as a model to create more gardens throughout the city.

Longtime garden

When Art and Jean Bernd moved to the neighborhood in 1960, neighbors filled the empty lots with plants.

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Above, Shauna Yorty takes home freshly harvested red beets; left, Andrew Phillips, left, and Craig Walt, right, weed the garden on a Wednesday work day. Below, Spencer Shambaugh, left, manages the community garden for Lancaster Recreation Commission; right, markers for the range of produce.



Kelly Slippey, right, and her kids Nellie Slippey, 6, and Esben Slippey, 4, weed before picking flower bouquets.





Northern Market, at North Queen and Walnut streets, was designed and built by John Evans. According to an article in the LNP archives, the market house was built by auto dealer John Groff for \$65,000 and completed in 1958. Center, Evans' design for the architect and builder for the Western Farmers' Market in 1858. It is built with Queen Anne-style towers, with the market below and a community hall above. Right, Eastern Market, built in 1883, was designed by Evans in Empire style with a distinctive tower and five-bay facade.



LANCASTERHISTORY PHOTOS

FOUNDING FATHER

John H. Evans, Lancaster's first architect, designed three city farmers' markets, constructed a number of notable buildings and started a tradition

Our June edition of "The Architects of Lancaster" celebrated the work of architect John H. Evans. This month we feature the life and times of his father, John Evans, purported to be Lancaster's first architect. Self-taught, he formalized education and licensure for architects in 1897, indicating skills in drawing and construction could declare themselves architect. Evans was one of the first individuals in drafting and engineering John Lawrence, a town and respected engineer. Evans launched his career as a self-proclaimed architect/builder in his 20s. He and his wife raised 10 children, whom followed in their path. The ability to design useful buildings and their construction spread throughout Lancaster and his respect and admiration among the community, most notably for his structures. Prior to the invention of refrigeration



GREGORY J. SCOTT
DESIGN INTERVENTION

THE ARCHITECTS OF LANCASTER, PART 4: JOHN EVANS, 1824-1894



GREGORY J. SCOTT

John Evans designed and built the three-story Federal-style Marietta Town Hall in 1872, with its belvedere clock tower.

carry on the family practice for the next two generations.

What precipitated the licensing of architects as a profession?

As the U.S. population expanded rapidly in the 1870s, families moved from rural settings to the cities. Growth was unregulated as were the buildings, which led to fires and death. New York averaged 8,700 fires per year! It wasn't until 1917 that The Handbook of Architectural Practice was introduced and formalized as a guide to good practice.

What markets did Evans design?

Eastern Market (1883) Second Empire style; Western Market (1883) Queen Anne style; and Northern Market (1884) Italianate style.

Where did Evans reside?

Evans and Sarah resided in a modest, three-story row home at 515 W. James St., most likely designed by him.

● This column is contributed by Gregory J. Scott, FAIA, a local architect with 50 years of national experience in innovation and design, a member of the American Institute of Architects' College of Fellows. Email: GScoff@ps.com

Architects of Lancaster is a series that highlights beautiful and oftentimes unheralded work of Lancaster's sons and daughters. Their names have long been forgotten, but their mark on our community lives on.

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ed from A13

Mindful Nature
Exploring Well-
Being Through
Wildlife. Friday, July
14, 10 a.m. to noon. Take a
breath, deep and
reflect with nature in a
walk at Manheim
Library. Free.
13-18. Register on
line.

Power Paint
Friday, July 18, 11
a.m. to 1 p.m. Join a playful,
active painting experience
celebrating the beauty of
the blooms and the
creativity at This
isness Studio, 150 N.

Prince St., Lancaster. \$75.
Register online.

String Art workshop.
Friday, July 18, 7 p.m. Create
string art (with botanical
design options) at Horst
Arts, 17 N. Main St., Man-
heim. \$39. Register online.

**A Gardener's Guide to
Soil Health.** Saturday, July
19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn
about soil and how to work
with our soils for optimal
plant growth at Horn Farm
Center, 4945 Horn Road,
Hallam. \$45, sliding scale.
Register online.

Plant Swap. Saturday,
July 19, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Bring houseplants, peren-
nials, tools, pots, books and
labeled seeds to Manheim
Township Library. Free.
Register online.

Outdoors for All Day.
Saturday, July 19, 11 a.m.
to 2 p.m. Celebrate the
outdoors and nature with Let's
Go 1-2-3, Pennsylvania De-
partment of Conservation & Natural Resources. SoWe

neighborhood and the City
of Lancaster with music,
food, games and outdoor
and nature activities at
Culliton Park, 200-238 S.
Water St. Free.

Pop-Up Plant Bar. Saturday,
July 19, 1-3 p.m. Make a succulent planter
with Terrarium Therapy at
BierHall Brewing, Lancaster.
\$10. Register online.

BYOB and Watercolor.
Saturday, July 19, 3:30-4:30
p.m. Create a watercolor
painting of basil with artist
Jona Minotto at Ciccio's
Olivs, 12B South Fifth
Ave., West Reading. \$47,
includes Italian bites. Reg-
ister online.

**Leaf-Shaped Ceramic
Bowls.** Tuesday, July 22,
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Make
ceramic bowls shaped like
leaves with Pennsylvania
Guild of Craftsmen, Lan-
caster. \$100. Register on-
line.

Yoga on the Lawn. Tues-
day, July 22, 6-7 p.m. Join a
yoga class outdoors at Con-
estoga House and Gardens,
1608 Marietta Ave. \$20.
Register online.

**Antlers and Academic:
Fall Food Plot Preparation.**
Tuesday, July 22, 7-8:15 p.m.
In this webinar from Penn State Extension,
learn strategies for fall food
plot success, including species
selection, planting and
spraying. \$15. Register on-
line.

With permission from
the city and liability waivers,
a group of neighbors dug in.
They had no funding,
no plants and no on-site
water. A group of about
a dozen split up the chores
over the week through the
growing season, even dur-
ing heat waves.

"We were pulling hoses
from other people's private
water hookups, which was
kind of a nightmare," says
neighbor Shanna Yorty.
"And then filling up water-
ing cans and walking them
over, like a bucket brigade.
It was really bad. It was so

hot and dry last year."

They brought in donated
plants. A neighbor made
tomato stakes. Without
a leader and despite the
odds, the group grew crops
to take home and share.

They also shared knowl-
edge: how to preserve hot
peppers with fermentation,
how to grow and use
medicinal herbs and what
to cook with all of that
Swiss chard.

Slippey, another neighbor,
appreciates the garden
for more than the herbs and
zinnias she brings home. Here,
her children Nellie, 6, and Es-
ben, 4, have space to roam.

"Compared to our tiny
backyard, this feels like
a mansion to them," she
says. "They can just run
and explore and taste
things and touch things
and smell things."

Here, neighbors young,
old and in between have
a guaranteed meet-up to
work together for the com-
mon good.

Garden: Community

Continued from A13

The high school sweethearts met in Schuylkill Haven and relocated to Lancaster after Art graduated from what's now Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. They grew a few tomato plants and spring onions in their small backyard and expanded to a friend's yard. Art Berns says, "They started growing in a corner of the open space after buying it from a neighbor in the late 1970s. Over the next 15 years, they bought the remaining parcels. The last was topped with grass and a wash line open for the neighborhood to use."

Art planted and Jean harvested and processed. Here, he grew perennial crops like asparagus and strawberries and rotated annual crops such as potatoes, tomatoes, corn, onions, cabbage, beans and more. He harvested plenty and is especially proud of picking tomatoes as early as June 16.

"I could come home from a frustrating day in the shop," he says. "I could fight with the weeds. It was a relief to me. It was a productive hobby."

Produce helped feed their family of four. They shared extra with neighbors at Redeemer Lutheran Church or Water Street Mission. After Art Berns retired as a mechanic, he had even more time to devote to his large garden.

Over the years, there was pressure to sell the plots to pay bills or provide much-needed parking. But they continued gardening until the couple, now in their mid-80s, was ready to move.

They sold the garden to the city in 2023, asking for it to remain green space.

He remembers seeing cows grazing in what's now Golden Triangle Shopping Center. He'd rather not see their garden paved over.

"Once you do that, it almost never comes back," he says. "It's gone."

Soil testing discovered levels of lead as well as arsenic in one corner, possibly from pesticide residue from the space's victory garden days, Walt said.

Luckily, that was an area covered in grass, not edible plants. The area was encapsulated with pavement and could be the site for a new storage shed and pavilion.

Other than vegetables and fruit, the Berns' treasured roses are still growing along the new fence. The roses are cuttings from Art Berns' grandfather's home he transplanted to his mother's garden and then here as their garden expanded.

On Wednesday work days, volunteers show up to weed and harvest. There's also monthly Saturday workshops to learn how to do things like make salsa. They take home what they need. This year, Shambaugh has brought 115 pounds of leftover produce to the rec's senior center.

He's also excited for people to learn how they can grow in their own yards as well as connect with others.

Next year, some plots will be available to rent and there are plans to create handicapped-accessible raised beds. The rest of the land will remain as a community garden, open to all.

Meanwhile, at Calvary Homes Retirement Community in Manheim Township, the Berns are adjusting to their smaller space.

"Since we lost the garden, the biggest crisis has been her grocery budget," Art Berns says.

The garden is compact, but there's space to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, Romaine lettuce plus rows of yellow beans and beets.

"I still go out and get dirt under my fingernails," he says. It was really bad. It was so



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