

June 2020



What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

*Just as we lose hope
she ambles in,
a late guest
dragging her hem
of wildflowers,
her torn
veil of mist,
of light rain,
blowing
her dandelion
breath
in our ears;
and we forgive her,
turning from
chilly winter
ways,
we throw off
our faithful
sweaters
and open
our arms.*

- Linda Pastan

It's been a tough season so far for most of us. While much has changed, many things we thought had changed, have not changed at all. Come find your peace in the Gardens. Come explore the bounty of spring, as the Gardens explode with color and life, reminding us of our resiliency, and our humanity. Here, you'll be surrounded with beauty and life you need only rest in. Come and see! Our gates are open every day from dawn to dusk and we welcome you!



PARDON OUR PROGRESS

Come and see the progress being made on the twelve projects that comprise the Upgrade 2020 capital campaign to refresh Central Gardens and to mark our 20th anniversary!

The Ceremonial Lawn is shaping up beautifully now that all new seeding has been planted, supported by a new drainage and irrigation system. Look for a major

remodel of the south entrance with new signage, lighting on the exterior brick wall to illuminate the Central Gardens logo, and a refurbished fountain at the south gate. The Nature Education Pavilion is getting new exterior lighting too!

The colorful banners we showed you in May are complemented now with fresh plantings of trees and shrubs inside the fence along the 8th Street corridor. Plans are underway to rebuild the water feature at the top of the meandering stream. And we are exploring plant identification systems that visitors can use across the Gardens.

The gates are open so come in, be a sidewalk superintendent, and enjoy the progress! And to our generous donors that have made these improvements possible, come and see your good work and know we are grateful!

CENTRAL GARDENS RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS

Grants are a vital form of funding upon which Central Gardens depends. This year is proving to be more challenging than ever for both foundations to support and for the Gardens to secure grant funding, and yet, it's happening! We appreciate the support we have received so far this year from the following organizations and we look forward to reporting on additional grant funding as the season progresses.

In April, Worth County Development Authority awarded Central Gardens \$3,110 for improvements to accessibility for our visitors. This grant allows us to purchase three wheelchairs, three walkers and an automatic door kit for the north entrance of the Nature Education Pavilion. Watch for pictures in an upcoming newsletter!

In May, the Alliant Energy Foundation awarded the Gardens \$1,000 for educational programming provided in the Kid's BEE Happy Garden.

We also received \$5,000 from the Hanson Foundation towards the Upgrade 2020 capital campaign for improvements and repairs throughout the Gardens.

Please consider including Central Gardens in your business or family foundation giving plans and be assured that your support of Central Gardens will be used for good.

JUNE'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER

Meet Lori Kittleson, a good friend of and volunteer at Central Gardens. We caught up with Lori on a rainy Sunday afternoon as she was pulling weeds in the Alumni Garden, one of fifteen themed gardens in Central Gardens that she adopted and will care for this season. Lori, a retired nurse, is



entering her second year of volunteering and said she was drawn to it as a way to get some exercise in a beautiful environment while giving back to the community. Lori did not grow up in a strong gardening environment, but credits her mother-in-law as the spark to her gardening interest.

Lori enjoys a number of different plants but focuses on the hardy types in her own garden, such as sedums and grasses that can endure the harsh winds along the lake. Lori's favorite plant is the Lilac and because rabbit destruction was minimal this year she is looking forward to seeing and smelling those sweet blossoms. Our thanks to Lori and all the garden volunteers that come together to keep Central Gardens growing!

Whether you enjoy digging in the dirt or organizing events, there are opportunities for everyone to come and serve at Central Gardens!

Contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or follow us on Facebook for more information.

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise of democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

-Marjorie Moore

BEE PART OF A COMMUNITY BEE A MEMBER

The success and sustainability of a free, public garden like Central Gardens relies on community support and on people getting involved. Central Gardens provides a space for all people to explore and to play and to rest. It is a space where children throughout the community can learn about gardening, and where, as a community, people across north Iowa have created a stunning backdrop for over 15,000 visitors each year. It's really no surprise that communities that have gardens like we do in north Iowa report increased property values, decreased crime rates,

and improved pride that comes with community ownership of green space.

It's also no surprise, given the challenges thus far in 2020 that this year we need you more than ever to sustain Central Gardens. Did you know that it takes \$110,000 each year just to open the gates? That's why we rely on both individual and corporate memberships to operate. For as little as \$50 a calendar year, your membership provides fundamental support to sustain Central Gardens, supporting not only the beauty of the Gardens but also the programs that enrich our lives as a community. Please get involved and secure your membership today at <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/>.

A NEW NORMAL FOR THE GARDENS: ZOOM

Like many organizations, Central Gardens is using Zoom to conduct meetings until we can safely gather again. In April and in May board meetings were conducted via Zoom and while we look forward to the time we can be together again, we are grateful to live in an age that provides technology that makes it possible to stay connected to others.



Left to right, top to bottom, are Troyce Fisher, Joni Frederick, Roy Markwardt, Bob Rennebohm, Merlyn Tiedemann, Barb Nicholas, Ciar Carnall, Becke Dorenbusch, Andy Johnston, Leigh Trembath, David Burgart, Brenda Winter, Ann Grochala, Angie Perez, and Linette Heydt.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2020 VIRTUAL SUMMER GARDEN PARTY!

Yes, you read that correctly. Normally, our annual Summer Garden Party, a mission critical fundraising event, is held each June. But in a year that is anything but normal and much of our connection to others has gone online, this party is going virtual! You won't want to miss Central Gardens' 2020 Virtual Summer Garden Party beginning Sunday, June 28 and continuing through Saturday, July 4!



You are invited and here's why.

It's been a tough year for everyone, and Central Gardens is no different. Grant sources supporting events and programming we've had in previous years are not available this year. Fundraising events are scaled back due to social distancing. Unfortunately, many of the opportunities we have to connect with you, the patrons of Central Gardens, have simply diminished and that impacts our bottom line.

While we need \$110,000 each year to open the gates, our goal for the 2020 Virtual Summer Garden Party is to raise \$14,500 specifically for operational costs this year.

We need your support more than ever. You can help Central Gardens raise \$14,500 in three easy steps:

- 1.** Look for a brochure in your mail with sale items such as Minnesota Twins memorabilia, photo sessions, pottery, John Larson stained glass, garden totems, and fresh bouquets to brighten your home for the 4th of July as well as sponsorship opportunities for children programs, Picnic and Performances events, urns and planters around the Gardens, and much more. You'll have an opportunity to select items then and there and return your order in a return envelope! No waiting!
- 2.** Save the dates for the **2020 Virtual Summer Garden Party June 28 - July 4!**
- 3.** Go to www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for more information and details about sale and sponsorship opportunities. Ready, set, bid (virtually)!

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Please join us in thanking our 2020 corporate members Bonnie Hall Associates, CL Tel, Don's Body Shop, Farmers State Bank, Hearing Associates, PC, Hosmer's Toyota, Images Photography, Iowa Farm Girl Enterprises, Larson's Mercantile, North Iowa Credit Union, North Iowa Orthodontics, Spenser Rahm with Edward Jones Investments, Sail Inn, Schupick & Associates, PC, and Sorensen Law Office.

And thank you Jay Lefevre at First Gabrielson agency for letting Central Gardens use his enclosed trailer to pick up the annuals for Central Gardens. We are grateful, Jay, and hope you'll stop by to see the beautiful plants you helped us bring to the Gardens this year!



CENTRAL GARDENS HIRES GROUNDSKEEPER

Sixteen-year-old Drake Tiedemann, a junior at Northwood-Kensett High School, has joined Central Gardens as a groundskeeper for the summer. Drake's grandparents, Merlyn and Julie Tiedemann, brought Drake along with them to work in the gardens early this season and his enthusiasm and spirit was readily apparent. After just three visits, he was asked if he wanted to work here.



Drake works under the tutelage of his grandfather, Merle, a devoted groundskeeper himself, and together they tackle lengthy job lists nearly every day. When asked how he likes working with his grandpa, Drake eyes lit up above his face mask and he said, "oh, I love it! It's the best!" Drake enjoys being outdoors and appreciates the beauty of the Gardens. He participates in wrestling and cross country during the school year. Welcome Drake! We're glad you're here!



HERO'S WALK

There's still time to order a personalized brick for the hero in your life and save \$100! Order a brick for your military, civil servant, coronavirus, or other hero to form the new Hero's Walk shown here near the Sentinel. For more information, please email us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com.





Central Gardens of North Iowa
P.O. Box 735
Clear Lake, IA 50428

Address Service Requested

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE GARDENS

FRIDAYS, JUNE 5 – AUGUST 28 Fresh on Fridays Bouquets 8 AM – 11 AM

Movement **SATURDAY, JUNE 20**, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Qi-Gong with Debbie Mitchell

Movement **SATURDAY, JUNE 27**, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Barre class with Shauna Crabb

2020 Virtual Summer Garden Party **JUNE 28 – JULY 4**

Movement **SATURDAY, JULY 11**, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Yoga with Judy Demro

Movement **SATURDAY, JULY 18**, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Yoga with Terri Mulford

SUNDAYS, JULY 26 – SEPTEMBER 13, 5 PM – 6 PM Picnics and Performances

For details about these and other events at
Central Gardens, please check our website at

www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com

and follow us on Facebook.

