



*Great faith is the product of great fights. Great testimonies are the outcome of great tests.
Great triumphs can only come out of great trials. Smith Wigglesworth (1859 – 1947)*

This newsletter should be finding its way to you just as the Garden gates open for the season as they have done each May 1st for nearly twenty years. We should be announcing confirmation of the incredible line-up planned this year for kids programming and the BEE Happy Garden, picnics and performances, the Fiesta, Movement Saturdays, and many other opportunities to connect in and to grow this space.

Instead, just as you've found yourself altering summer plans because of the coronavirus pandemic, so too we face uncertainty about when these events will happen and have delayed opening until such time as visitors can be safely welcomed back. We are hopeful the Garden gates can open to the public in mid-May.



In the meantime, it takes a large team of volunteers to maintain this treasure of north Iowa that is comprised of 2.75 acres of land and twenty-two themed gardens. Here, we welcome over 15,000 annual visitors to the only free public garden space in a 90-mile radius of Clear Lake. Whether you have a green thumb or have other talents to contribute, there are plenty of opportunities to serve the community, have a whole lot of fun doing it, and make new friends in the process.

Volunteers are needed right now to get the grounds ready to open. We have implemented a plan to support safety on the grounds that includes staggered admissions using SignUpGenius (and more manual means if necessary), social distancing, a disinfectant station, and locked facilities. A "drop-in Zoom call" for volunteers is being held this Friday, May 1, from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM in which callers can learn about opportunities that are available. To register, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/join-us-for-a-virtual-call-for-volunteers> or let us know you're interested by emailing Central Gardens at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to receive notice of these and other events as well.

We may not know what the future holds, but we know it will be beautiful and that we will get through this together.

WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING CORPORATE MEMBERS

A special shout out to 15 area companies that have already secured 2020 memberships! Central Gardens relies on membership dollars to operate each year. Annual corporate memberships start at \$250 and include numerous perks. Please let these awesome businesses know that you appreciate their support of Central Garden's and join them with your own corporate or individual membership by logging on to the website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com and link to membership under Get Involved.

DESIGNER (\$2,500 – \$5,000) Hearing Associates, PC

GARDENER (\$1,000 – \$2,499) CL Tel

CARETAKER (\$500 – \$999) Bonnie Hall Associates, Don's Body Shop, Spenser Rahm with Edward Jones Investments, Larson's Mercantile, and Sail Inn

PLANTER (\$250 – \$499) Farmers State Bank, Hosmer's Toyota, Images Photography, Iowa Farm Girl Enterprises, North Iowa Credit Union, North Iowa Orthodontics, Schupick & Associates, PC, & Sorensen Law Office.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU: UPCOMING EVENTS

The primary goal of events at the Gardens has been to engage a diverse audience with a variety of events that bring us together to celebrate, to learn, and to rest **IN** the beauty of the Gardens. Our challenge now is to find ways to connect and to educate in new and different ways in this season of coronavirus. We, a few of the stewards of Central Gardens, assure you that we accept that challenge.

We will continue to explore the many details, including how to work with community partners, to safely and meaningfully bring opportunities to you **FROM** the Gardens such as cooking demos with Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, youth gardening with ISU Extension, Story Time and literature with CL Library and stimulating creativity with the CL Arts Center.

The ways in which we work and play both **IN** the Gardens and **FROM** the Gardens may look different this year, but we are committed to do our best to bring you opportunities to connect, grow, and serve. Please follow us on Facebook, stay tuned to our website, and check the Clear Lake Mirror Reporter for updates and details about these and other events and programs, including those offered online, in the coming weeks.

Friday, May 1 – 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

May Day Call for Volunteers via Zoom

Mid-May Spring-Up Sales (details below)

Fridays, June 5 – August 28 – 8 AM – 11 AM

Fresh on Friday/ BEE Happy Gardening

Sunday, June 28 – Saturday, July 4 – Summer

Garden Gala (details to follow)

Fridays, July 3 & 10 – 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Little

Locavores-Mini Cooking Class

Saturdays, July 18 – 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Little Locavores-Mini Cooking Class

Saturdays, June 20 & 27, July 11 & 18 – 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Movement Saturdays

Sundays, July 26 – September 13 – 5 PM – 6 PM

Picnics and Performances

Tuesday, July 28 – 6:30 PM Growing Succulents

Follow us on Facebook or the website for details!

WATCH FOR SPRING-UP PLANT SALES!

Anyone else anxious to get out and start digging in the dirt? We know we can't host our usual Plant Sale & Gardening Fair this year so we're focusing on things we can do by offering Spring-Up plant sales.

This is what will happen. Spring-Up sales will be held periodically until the first day of summer, June 20th. We hope to host the first Spring-Up sale mid-May and will host others as plants are available.

Are you one who thinned out plants from your garden to bring to the sale? You still can. Go and dig and pot up your plants! Give them a week or two to perk up from the transplanting. Then email us or send a Facebook message to let us know you have plants to bring to the Gardens. We will get back to you to set a time to meet you at the Gardens for delivery.

Are you one who usually comes to the Plant Sale & Gardening Fair to buy plants? You still can. As gardeners bring in their potted plants, we'll send notice of a Spring-Up sale on Facebook, spread the plants out on the lawn, and you can come shop at the Gardens.

Please be assured Central Gardens will follow the then current guidelines set forth by the Governor and city officials that serve to contain the coronavirus, including compliance with social distancing, limiting crowds, and neutralizing the exchange of money.

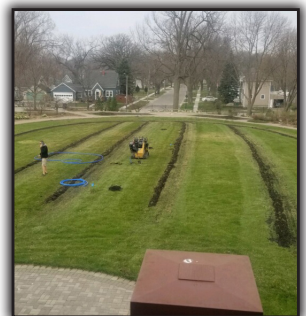
Stay connected with Central Gardens Facebook page and website for Spring Up sales. Let's make the best of these times and support your gardens and ours!

UPGRADE 2020 PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY

Work has begun on several projects as part of the Upgrade 2020 capital campaign. Four colorful banners promoting Central Gardens grace the streetlights on the 8th Street corridor. Thanks to Connie Plagge for leading the design effort for these sharp, colorful banners.



A new irrigation system and drainage was installed last week in the Ceremonial Lawn. The crew made quick work of this sorely needed remedy. Thanks again to Connie for spearheading this effort!



Other volunteers are working on various projects to repair mason work and fountain jets, to purchase new flower pots, and securing succulents for the new 2020 Tribute Garden. Stay tuned for more information along with pictures in future WGO newsletters and online!

CENTRAL GARDENS TO HONOR HEROES AMONG US

he-ro /'hirō/ noun:

HERO: a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.

Heroes come in many forms and, as Memorial Day approaches, we are mindful of those who served valiantly in our nation's military to protect democracy and freedom. During the coronavirus pandemic, north lowans have been inspired by many heroes who have also risked their well-being in service to others. We are grateful for health care workers, public safety employees, volunteer firefighters, grocery store clerks and stockers, educators, small business owners, our own volunteers, and all the others who have been on the front lines in this challenging time. Still other heroes include mentors, leaders, and artists who inspire us and lift humanity.

Because heroic service, no matter its form, should always be cherished and celebrated, Central Gardens is opening a new Hero's Walk comprised of bricks honoring your heroes' service. Your heroes' bricks will be placed near the Sentinel, and rest easy under its guard.

And, for a limited time, until June 15th, any brick purchase for the Hero's Walk is offered at a discounted rate of \$150* per brick, a \$100 savings! We'll also send a personalized card to the recipient to let them know of your generosity and thoughtfulness!

To honor a military veteran, simply specify their name, branch of service, and the years served (e.g., Douglas Lindaman - US Army - 1970-72). These bricks serve to honor any family member or friend who served in the armed forces, not only those who were killed in action.

To honor a coronavirus hero, please identify the person's name and occupation for the first and second



lines and we'll add a third line that reads "C-VIRUS 2020" (e.g., Mary Smith - Grocery Worker - C-VIRUS 2020).

Please tell us about your inspirational heroes as well, providing the name and role of the person and add a third line to the brick if you wish (e.g., Enfys McMurray - Mentor - IHCC 1980).

Let these heroes know how greatly they are appreciated and provide testimony to their legacies. Brick inscriptions may include up to thirteen (13) characters per line in three (3) lines, including spaces. Installation should be completed this fall. For more information about our brick and paver programs, obtain an order form, and to order bricks, please contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com.

*This discounted price applies only to bricks purchased for the Hero's Walk and not to other memorials or anniversary brick purchases.

INTRODUCING MERLE TIEDEMANN



Newly appointed board member Merle Tiedemann's love of the outdoors began on the farm he grew up on in northwest Iowa. After retiring from Holcim Cement, Merle and wife Julie became volunteers at the Gardens. Their recent move to Clear Lake has allowed them

and their grandchildren more time to enjoy working in Central Gardens. Welcome Merle!

THRIVENT GIVING

Central Gardens has joined thousands of 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the Thrivent Choice Program. The program allows Thrivent members to direct Choice Dollars to Central Gardens. A warm thank you to all the Thrivent members that have supported the Gardens in this way to date! For more information about the Thrivent program and how you can put Thrivent dollars to work for Central Gardens, please visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.





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Address Service Requested

CENTRAL GARDENS NAMED EDUCATOR PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce recognizes an individual, business, or organization dedicated to positively impacting area students or teachers with the Education Partner of the Year award. In February, Central Gardens was honored by the Chamber with the award mostly due to the dedication of the Kids BEE Happy programs coordinator, Leigh Trembath. Thank you, Leigh, for all you do for the Gardens and the children of north Iowa! For more information about kids programs and events, please check website at



www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com or follow us on Facebook.

