



A message from Board President, Troyce Fisher

Dear Patrons of Central Gardens,

We want to update you on the status of Central Gardens' 2020 season given the special circumstances impacting us all as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. In normal times we would be using the month of April to prepare the grounds for our official opening on May 1. We would also be busy preparing for our annual May Plant Sale and Gardening Fair. Obviously, these are not normal times.

In "an abundance of caution," the board of directors is anticipating that the May 1 opening day date will probably need to be delayed until we feel it is safe to gather volunteers who do the behind the scenes work it takes to ready the 2.75 acres for visitors. If circumstances allow, we will schedule small teams of workers to stagger times when benches and tables can be distributed, fountain and stream pumps installed, hoses situated, and the 22 themed gardens readied for our spring opening.

We have also decided to move the May Plant Sale and Gardening Fair to the fall when it will transform itself into a bulb sale! Additionally, we are in the process of setting an early fall date for the annual Summer Garden Party, an event that requires much advance planning and generous support from businesses and individuals.

We are crossing our fingers that the busy summer Fresh on Fridays schedule can go on as planned, including both bouquet sales and children's activities in the Kids BEE Happy Garden. We are also booking artists for the Picnics and Performances series that begins in late July. We wish to emphasize, however, that the health and safety of all our visitors, guests, and volunteers is our highest priority, and that all decisions about how to proceed will be made in that context and guidance from the CDC, and state and local officials. We will post timely announcements on Facebook and Instagram as we know more.

While Central Gardens is in a strong financial position due to wise stewardship, these developments will challenge our bottom line, as we are aware it is challenging all of yours. If you are already a member, thank you. If you have not yet joined, please consider doing so, even at the lowest membership level. (See the back side of this newsletter for details). And please consider volunteering as we'll need "all hands-on deck" when we can open! We so appreciate your support.

Central Gardens is a very special place where lots of "unseen miracles" occur every day as people renew themselves in its serenity, make new friendships while volunteering, marvel at the beauty and bounty of nature, and delight in watching wide-eyed young children wondrously learn about growing and harvesting flowers and plants. We pledge to open our gates and resume creative programming as soon as we are assured that it is safe for our volunteers and visitors to do so.

Most importantly, stay safe and healthy.

The Central Gardens Board of Directors and Staff



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

Return Service Requested

PLEASE JOIN US!

**Please support Central Gardens of North Iowa
if you can by becoming a member today!**

Individual/ family memberships as well as corporate memberships are available.

To become a member, get more information on levels of membership,

costs and perks of being a member, please visit the website at

www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com, and click on "Get Involved."

You can also email us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com with any questions.

THANK YOU!