



*We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us. - Jenny Uglow*

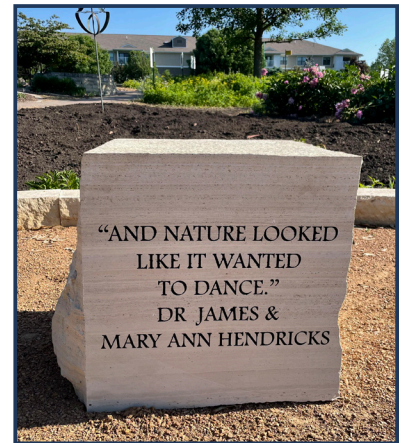
This July, Central Gardens will explode with activities, events, celebrations, and extraordinary beauty. You'll see Fresh on Friday bouquets transition from featuring perennials found across the Gardens to flowers grown in the Cutting Garden with zinnias, cosmos, sunflowers, and snapdragon bursting with color and vibrancy.

The Bee Happy Discovery Garden is literally buzzing, and clucking, and bustling with activity. Community partners, including Clear Lake Public Library, the Surf Music Enrichment Center, Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, Lime Creek Nature Center, Landfill of North Iowa, Clear Lake Arts Center, ISU Extension, and Iowa Waste Exchange will offer a variety of programs to spark imagination, provide information, and foster exploration in the Gardens.

Golf croquet and line dancing continue this month and Movement Saturday returns on July 10. On July 17, Central Gardens will host a Plein Air event for artists from across the Midwest to bring the beauty of the Gardens to life on their canvases. Dr. Donald Lewis returns on the 20th with a lecture on insect pests; a drumming circle will convene during the Summer Moon on July 23; and the sixth season of Picnics and Performances kicks off on Sunday, July 25 with the Cedar County Cobras, an American boot-stompin', roots and blues duo from Iowa City.

Come and engage in the fun or take a break from the busy-ness and simply stroll the grounds, experiencing the peace and tranquility of the Gardens. You'll find many quiet spots across the grounds that invite you to slow down, connect with nature, and soak in the beauty of it all. And please remember to support the Gardens while you're here. Free will donations make it possible to keep the gates open from dawn to dusk each day, to offer free admission to the grounds, and to provide over 50 free events and programs for all ages to enjoy this summer. Welcome to Central Gardens! We're glad you're here!

**Only 6 cubes remain** to form the 12-seat Council Ring located on the Activity Lawn. For just \$1,500, you can support the mission of Central Gardens and leave a legacy. The cubes are made from native Iowa limestone and measure 18" on all sides. They will be custom engraved with a memorial or dedication as desired by the donor.



Bricks and granite pavers may also be purchased for placement along the many paths and walkways that meander through the grounds. For more information, please contact us at 641-357-0700 or via email at [info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com](mailto:info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com).



## SUMMER GARDEN PARTY 2021

Heartfelt thanks to all who supported Central Gardens annual fundraiser, the Summer Garden Party, on June 27. Originally scheduled for the 26th, heavy rain made it necessary to move the event to a beautiful, rain-kissed Sunday afternoon. Nearly 200 people enjoyed live music by Bill Jarnigan, wine and beer donated by Lake Liquors and Lake Time Brewery, and food catered by Scott McCormick. Special thanks to Gary Heydt, who always makes the auction both entertaining and profitable. And for all the auction donors and buyers, sponsors, and dozens of volunteers that made this year's garden party a success, thank you!

# GRANTS FOR CENTRAL GARDENS

The Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, awarded Central Gardens an Iowa Arts & Culture Resilience Grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the 2021 Garden Fiesta on August 15. The Fiesta is a celebration of Latinx culture in north Iowa and will feature live music, authentic cuisine, and traditional games and activities.

The John Ruan Foundation Trust has selected Central Gardens, having shown to be a sound organization that conforms to the Foundation's pillars of giving, as a recipient of their annual giving process. The Foundation provided \$1,000 in June that will also be used to support the Garden Fiesta this year.

Central Gardens also received a \$300 grant from the DM Dull Fund for the August 22 children's show by Rockin' Woody, a magician, musician, and all-around funny guy for Picnics and Performances.

As a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, Central Gardens relies on grant funding to make it possible to offer activities, events, and programs like these each year at no charge to the public. We are so grateful for the generous support of these funders! Thank you!

## Rent The Gardens!

Looking for a place to host a shower, celebrate a life, hold a business meeting, get married, or conduct a graduation ceremony? Central Gardens proudly offers the Nature Education Pavilion, Moon Gate and Ceremonial Lawn, and the Activity Lawn for rent with a variety of rental packages available.

The Pavilion is fully accessible and features floor-to-ceiling tinted windows with a view of the Ceremonial Lawn and surrounding gardens, a wraparound deck, space for up to 50 people inside, and even more outside on the Victorian Terrace. It is equipped with Wi-Fi, a monitor for projection, a full-size refrigerator on the lower level and beverage cooler upstairs, microwave, ample counterspace on both levels, a large bathroom, tables and chairs, as well as three new high-top tables that can be used in- or outside the building. The Pavilion can be rented alone or in combination with the Moon Gate and Ceremonial Lawn or with the Activity Lawn with the School Bell Gazebo and Council Ring.

No matter what you're planning, from small gatherings to large events, Central Gardens provides a stunning backdrop for all to enjoy. For more information about renting the Gardens, please visit our website at [www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com](http://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com) or contact us at [info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com](mailto:info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com).



## THE HAPPY HEN HOUSE

### WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

To get to her summer house in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden, of course!

Earlier this year, Central Gardens received grant funding from the AgVA Foundation and Clear Lake Local Foods that made it possible to purchase a small chicken coop. Mossycup Farms, the chickens' permanent residence, is providing hens to the Gardens along with their bedding and feed for the summer. This partnership is making it possible to educate youth about where food comes from, connecting the food we eat to Mother Earth, and teaching about the value chickens provide to a garden.

The girls (sorry guys, roosters are not allowed in the Gardens) arrived in early June and have settled in nicely to their new space. A naming contest was held prior to their arrival for the seven hens that will be rotated in pairs and trios throughout the season. Pictured here are Delphine, Buttercup, and Lily. Fern, Poppy, Dahlia, and Sweet Pea will be visiting the Happy Hen House soon. Stop by and say hello!





# Corporate Member:

## IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY



When Craig and Brenda Kienast married in 1994 they spent all their wedding money on camera equipment. Soon after, they rented a small storefront in Garner for 10% of what they received for photo shoots. Some months that didn't amount to much. But, their business grew and today Images Photography is a thriving studio on Buddy Holly Drive in Clear Lake.

Craig has roots in the grounds upon which Central Gardens is built, having attended Central School before it closed in 1988. He also has fond memories of his favorite teacher, Donna Dull, who taught kindergarten for 43 years and is a pillar of Central Gardens. He and Brenda's love for the Gardens runs deep. They appreciate the early adopters who had a vision of what a public garden could provide to Clear Lake and the steady pressure it has taken to develop the grounds into what it is today, a gem for all of north Iowa to treasure and enjoy.

The Kienast's also have a strong sense of duty to support Central Gardens and they never disappoint. They have been corporate members since 2008, supporting our mission to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun. They are regular contributors to the Gardens annual fundraiser, the Summer Garden Party, offering huge discounts to photo packages. And they share their love of the Gardens with others, regularly bringing family and friends to take in its beauty, to connect, and to de-stress.

Join us today by establishing your individual, family, or corporate membership by visiting [www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/](http://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/) or contact us at [info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com](mailto:info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com) for more information.

## Central Gardens Thanks Our 2021 CORPORATE MEMBERS

Bonnie Hall, Realtor  
Clear Lake Bank and Trust  
CL Tel  
ControlPrint Creative  
Don's Body Shop

Farmers State Bank  
Gabrielson Agency  
Hansmeier Mowing  
Hearing Associates  
Images Photography

Lake Liquors  
Larson's Mercantile  
Laurie Cook Photography  
McQuaid Agency  
Metalcraft

Pla-Ground Family Farms  
Rahm Investments  
Sail Inn  
The Basic Birder

## CENTRAL GARDENS WELCOMES *Nikki Johnson*

Nikki Johnson joined our team in June as our part-time Office Coordinator, working 10 hours a week, and is excited to help Central Gardens continue to provide abundant educational, recreational, and cultural programs for our communities to enjoy.

She and her husband, Rick, are both from Belmond, Iowa and recently moved to Latimer. They are excited to welcome their daughter to the world in September. Nikki also works as the Education Coordinator for the Surf Ballroom & Museum in Clear Lake, carrying out all educational and community outreach programs. She enjoys volunteering at local animal shelters, doing anything outdoors, playing music, cooking, and baking. Welcome Nikki!





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

**Address Service Requested**

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE GARDENS

There's something for everyone this month at Central Gardens!

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com](http://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com) for details on these and other activities, events, and programs coming up at the Gardens.

**Fridays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments*

**Fridays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Garden Explorers*

**Friday, July 2, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Musical Petting Zoo – Surf Music Enrichment Center*

**Sundays, July 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2 PM – 4 PM** *Golf Croquet Open Play – equipment provided.*

**Tuesday, July 6, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM** *Line dancing with Mary Jo*

**Friday, July 9, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Foodie Friday/ Little Locavores – Healthy Harvest of North Iowa*

**Friday, July 9, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Lime Creek Nature Center*

**Saturdays, July 10, 17, 24, & 31, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM** *Movement Saturday*

**Friday, July 16, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Art in Bloom – Clear Lake Art Center*

**Friday, July 16, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Agriculture in the Classroom*

**Saturday, July 17, 8 AM – 5 PM** *Artist Paint Out*

**Tuesday, July 20, 6 PM – 7:30 PM** *Insect Pests with Dr. Donald Lewis*

**Friday, July 23, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Landfill of North Iowa*

**Friday, July 23, 7 PM – 8 PM** *Summer Moon Drum Circle.*

**Sunday, July 25, 5 PM – 6 PM** *Picnics & Performances – Cedar County Cobras*

**Thursday, July 29, 6 PM – 8 PM** *From Garden to Glass: Botanical Mixology Class*

**Friday, July 30, 9 AM – 11 AM** *Wiggles and Giggles – Iowa Waste Exchange*



*For information on these and other events and activities at Central Gardens, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com](http://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com)*