



## PICNICS & PERFORMANCES ARE BACK!

A little country, a little rock 'n roll, some swing in the mix, and a bit of gospel will fill Central Gardens with music to move you this summer! The ninth season of Picnics and Performances, which started on Sunday, July 14 and runs through Sunday, September 1, is filled with a variety of musicians from across north Iowa. You won't want to miss a week! Central Gardens is thrilled to welcome the following performers to this year's lineup:

**JULY 14 – JESSICA MCCLINTOCK** is an acoustic performer who has been performing around Iowa for over 10 years. She enjoys putting her own twist on classic songs and country but always keeps a good variety of covers.

**JULY 21 – THE MERCURY 3** is a rootsy rockabilly 3-piece band that has been a staple at festivals, parties, bars, clubs, car shows, special events, and anywhere a good time is had in the upper Midwest.

**JULY 28 – NONSEMBLE** is a group of amateur musicians from across north Iowa that play a variety of music from swing to pop to 70's and everything in between.

**AUGUST 4 – JUNI WEST** is a north Iowa singer/songwriter who performs music that dances from Americana to folk to country.

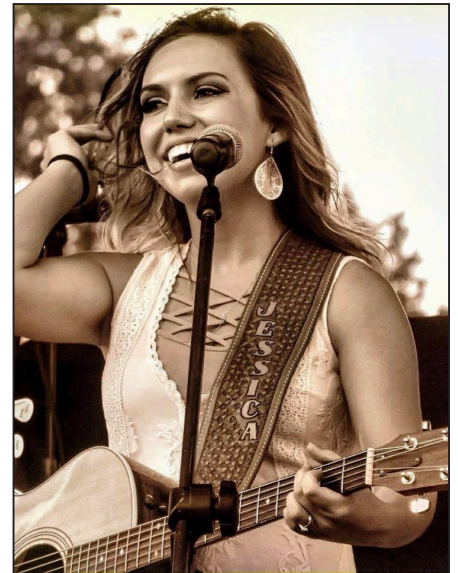
**AUGUST 11 – COME BACK BUDDY** is a 3-piece rock-n-roll band inspired by the legendary Buddy Holly and the Crickets.

**AUGUST 18 – SAM CROSSER & MELISSA DORENKAMP** are a couple of friends who go back about 20 years and enjoy playing jazz standards, show tunes, gospel favorites, and easy listening from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

**AUGUST 25 – LIV MCNAIR** is a country singer/songwriter from Garner, Iowa.

**SEPTEMBER 1 – JORDAN MESSEROLE** blends the sounds of his guitar with thoughtful lyrics, an engaging stage presence, and rack harmonica to tell gritty American tales that are bound to evoke emotion from listeners.

**All shows in this summer concert series are from 5 PM to 6 PM on the Activity Lawn surrounding the School Bell Gazebo, just inside the main entrance. Guests are invited to pack a picnic or purchase food from stands that will be on site. Bring a lawn chair and a bottle of wine, and you'll be set to enjoy a free concert in the beauty of Central Gardens!**



*The 2024 season of Picnics and Performances is underwritten by Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation and is sponsored by Alliant Energy Foundation. Corporate sponsors include Laird Law Firm, Hearing Associates, Stellar Industries, and Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting.*



# THE SCULPTURE GARDEN BY BRI SHOLLY

*Gardens are the result of a collaboration between art and nature.*  
– Penelope Hobhouse

For those who don't stroll the garden regularly, you may stumble across new surprises on your visits. One of those new surprises is the addition of a designated Sculpture Garden in 2023, with rotating art work each year as a collaboration between Central Gardens and the Clear Lake Arts Center.

When the collaboration began, the bed was planted with mainly annuals as the Design Team wanted to get a feel for how that space was utilized and what type of installation space would be needed by the artists. After a season of watching it all unfold, the bed was planted with perennials behind the sculpture base last fall. A line of salvia splits the bed in two lengthwise, with native little bluestem and prairie drop seed grasses creating a gentle backdrop to the artwork. Along the stream, dwarf ninebark was added to create small windows to catch glimpses of the sculpture from throughout the garden, just enough to persuade you to investigate closer up. The front half of the bed was left open to plant coordinating annuals in each year after the sculpture has been chosen. That way, the annual display mirrors or compliments the new artwork. The last piece of the horticultural puzzle is going to be a multi-stemmed birch tree in the corner by the bridge to mirror the one across the pathway in the Woodland Garden.

Our 2024 sculpture on display is entitled "Broken Arrow" by Dan Perry. It was installed on May 18th and will be on display into the month of October. To complement the curves in the piece, the annual bed has a serpentine row of zinnias running the length of the display. Annual salvia was placed right in front of the sculpture to continue the line and accentuate the 'nocking point' of the bed. Dusty miller makes up the backdrop of the zinnias, with petunias and verbena bordering the edge of the pathway.

A second sculpture by Dan Perry is on display at the Clear Lakes Art Center Sukup Lakeside Courtyard. Perry is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist based in Waterloo. His artwork has been exhibited in museums and art centers across the United States, including the Des Moines Art Center, Waterloo Center for the Arts, and the Spartanburg Art Museum. His sculptures have also been featured in national outdoor exhibitions including the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit, SculptureWalk in Sioux Falls, and Art on the Beltline in Atlanta.

When he isn't creating, Perry works to educate the public on the importance of the arts and how communities can integrate arts in meaningful ways. He provides a unique perspective drawing from his experiences as a practicing professional public artist, an active member of public art committees and as a teacher. Perry also serves on several arts committees, teaches sculpture, and is the Coordinator of the Public Art Incubator (PAI) at the University of Northern Iowa, a unique program where students can engage with professional artists in the production of their commissioned public art projects. You can learn more about his work at [www.danperrysculpture.com](http://www.danperrysculpture.com).

We hope that you get a chance to visit the garden each year to watch the rotating artist and flower display through this fun and innovative partnership.

CENTRAL  
GARDENS  
of NORTH IOWA



# SUMMER GARDEN PARTY A SUCCESS!

*The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. - Coretta Scott King*

We asked the community to show some love for Central Gardens by supporting the 2024 Summer Garden Party and hundreds of people responded to make the Gardens only ticketed event, a mission-critical fundraiser, a success.

Planning for the event that took place in June began last year among a group of six volunteers who orchestrated every detail. Renee Diemer, Becke Dorenbush (chair), Kaye Allison, Becky Lessard, Beth Lauterbach, and Diane Laabs, managed everything for the party from securing the food, beverages, and auction items to ensuring ticket sales and promotion. Their hard work and dedication to this important event is deeply appreciated by the Board of Directors and staff of Central Gardens. Thank You!

For all who bought a ticket or a table, handcrafted an item for the auction, donated time, talent, treasure, and passion to the cause, purchased an auction item, bought a membership, and supported Central Gardens 2024 Summer Garden Party, Thank You!

Special thanks to the following Garden Party sponsors: Clear Lake Bank & Trust, CL Tel, Country Landscapes, Don's Body Shop, Bonnie Hall, Sail Inn, Stellar Industries, Brother's Ace Hardware, ControlPrint Creative, Lake Liquors, and Laurie Cook Photography. Thanks also to the following in-kind donors: LakeTime Brewery, Fareway, and Half Moon.

Central Gardens is also grateful to the many volunteers whose diligent efforts to prepare the grounds and themed beds for company did not go unnoticed. The Gardens looked spectacular, thanks to you, and the summer sun made it all the sweeter.

Central Gardens is in need of volunteers to adopt various themed gardens, join the Down and Dirty crew, manage rentals, and more. To find out more, please scan the QR code.



## 2024 Corporate Members

### DESIGNER (\$2,500 + UP)



### GARDENER (\$1,000 - \$2,499)



### CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

- Bombie (Bonnie Hall)
- Clear Lake Bank & Trust
- Laird Law Firm, PLC
- Larson's Mercantile
- Sail Inn
- Stellar Industries
- Ward Van Slyke Colonial Chapel

### PLANTER (\$250 - \$499)

- Bergland + Cram Architects
- Brother's Ace Hardware
- ControlPrint Creative
- Farmers State Bank
- Glen's Tire Service
- Holdredge Construction, LLC
- Jane Fischer & Associates
- Lake Liquors
- Lake Auto Service
- Laurie Cook Photography
- Metalcraft, Inc.
- North Iowa Community Credit Union
- Pla-Ground Family Farms
- Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting



Central Gardens of North Iowa  
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Clear Lake, IA 50428

**Address Service Requested**

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS AT CENTRAL GARDENS

*Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com](http://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com) for information on activities, events, and programs at the Gardens. Gates open daily from dawn to dusk through October 31.*

*Admission is free. Donations are welcome.*

**FRIDAYS, JULY 5, 12, 19, AND 26, 9 AM – 11 AM**

*Garden Explorers (kids). Free.*

**FRIDAYS, JULY 5, 12, 19, AND 26, 9 AM – 11 AM**

*Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments.*

**SUNDAYS, JULY 14 - SEPTEMBER 1, 5 PM – 6 PM**

*Picnics & Performances. Free.*

**TUESDAYS, 7/16, 8/20, & 9/24, 6 PM – 7:15 PM**

*Cooking Up Culture. Free.*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2 PM – 4 PM**

*Bugs, Bees, and Butterflies. Free.*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4 PM – 7 PM**

*Pumpkin Palooza. Free.*

