



PUMPKIN PALOOZA RETURNS TO CENTRAL GARDENS

Come join the fun! Kids of all ages are welcome to come celebrate all things pumpkin at Central Gardens on Saturday afternoon, October 12 for the third annual Pumpkin Palooza. This free, family-friendly fall festival begins at 4 PM with a variety of new games and activities including pumpkin tic-tac-toe, pin the nose on the pumpkin, pumpkin golf, bowling, minute-to-win-it, ring toss, pumpkin painting, apple cider and popcorn, and food trucks.

Learn about the life cycle of pumpkins and history of pumpkins in North America, and enjoy decorating demonstrations, a gorgeous photo booth, music, and more. Carved pumpkins from across the community will be lit for Pumpkins on Parade at 6:30 PM.

Pumpkin Palooza is offered free of charge. To make a donation to Central Gardens to support Pumpkin Palooza please visit our website and click on the orange donate button or bring a donation to the event. Donors to date include Lake Theater (popcorn), Larson's Mercantile (mums), Red Geranium (floral picks), Joe Wick (straw bales), Kirk Kraft (antique car), Sukup Manufacturing (\$250), Mark and Becke Dorenbush Thrivent grant (\$250), and an anonymous donor (\$1,000). Corporate sponsors for Pumpkin Palooza are Don's Body Shop and Farmers State Bank.



*In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!
Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.
Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!*

*— Autumn Fires
by Robert Louis Stevenson*

INTRODUCING ... *The Friendship Garden*

What began as a plan to refurbish the Shade Garden this year suddenly shifted to a need to completely transform the space when the primary source of shade, a decades-old sugar maple, fell down. Without it, the major displays of hostas, ferns, astilbe, pulmonaria, snakeroot, and goats' beard were exposed to full sun and would quickly die out. Volunteers worked through the summer to put together a plan to transform the Shade Garden with sun-tolerant plants, creating a new themed garden within Central Gardens of North Iowa.

The new Friendship Garden is located just inside Central Gardens' northwest gate across from the Lily Garden, where a bronze statue of a barefoot boy reading overlooks the Friendship Walk. Evergreens line the western edge of the space, providing a barrier to traffic on North 8th Street. It's a large area, measuring just over 2200 square feet.

A small group of volunteers have filled the new perennial garden with sun-loving plants and shrubs including Karl Foerster reed grass, Chocolate Shogun astilbe, Kitten Around catmint, Pow Wow Wild Berry coneflower, One in a Melon coneflower, Purple Illusion Magic Show Veronica, Spun Silk daisy, Stacy's hummelo, Denim 'n Lace Russian sage, Blue Boa hyssop, Saucy Seduction yarrow, Sassy Sunset yarrow, Firelight Tidbit hydrangea, Puffer Fish hydrangea, Vanilla Strawberry hydrangea, Incrediball Blush hydrangea, Invincibelle Wee White hydrangea, and Incrediball hydrangea.



Special thanks to the team that planted the Friendship Garden: Doug and Laura Marty, Roger and Lee Walston, Vern Katzung, Leigh Trembath, and David Burgart, to Katie Casey's Designs for developing the plan for the new garden, and to the Hanson Family Foundation for partially funding the project.

Interested in getting more involved with Central Gardens?

Volunteers are needed right now to coordinate social media, manage rentals, and fill board vacancies.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Central Gardens, please contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or call **641-357-0700**.



Rent the Gardens

The Nature Education Pavilion is available for rent year-round and may be the ideal setting for your fall or winter gathering. Whether you're planning a corporate retreat, a baby shower, or a holiday party, the Pavilion has room for thirty and a panoramic view of Central Gardens Ceremonial Lawn and newly refurbished Moon Gate. It is furnished with tables, chairs, two refrigerators, ample counter space, a monitor, WIFI and, a large bathroom. Contact us today at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com or visit our website for more information.

*And the sun took a step back,
The leaves lulled themselves to sleep
and autumn was awakened.
- Raquel Franco*



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
Clear Lake Noon Lions
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
P.O. Box 735
Clear Lake, IA 50428

Address Service Requested

The gates are open dawn to dusk for just a few weeks so plan your visit to Central Gardens soon! Then, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com for information on activities, events, and programs coming up at the Gardens in 2025! Here's a look ahead.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4 PM – 7:30 PM

Pumpkin Palooza. Free.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31,

Gates close for the season

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

Gates open at dawn for the 2025 season.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 8 AM – 12 PM

Plant Sale and Gardening Fair.

FRIDAYS, JUNE 6 – AUGUST 29, 9 AM – 11 AM

Garden Explorers. Free.

FRIDAYS, JUNE 6 – AUGUST 29, 9 AM – 11 AM

Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 12 NOON

Summer Garden Party. Ticketed event.

SUNDAYS, JULY 20 – SEPTEMBER 7, 5 PM – 6 PM

Picnics & Performances. Free.

