



*I love spring anywhere but if I could choose, I would always greet it in the garden. – Ruth Stout*

## WELCOME BACK TO CENTRAL GARDENS!

Spring has come and Central Gardens is open at last! Come stroll the grounds and take in the wonder of nature waking up from winter's rest. Watch the spectacle as thousands of bulbs and blossoms sprout new life in 23 themed gardens.

Experience the beauty of daffodils, pansies, iris, tulips, and violets as they burst with color across the grounds.

*The gates are open dawn to dusk every day of the week – holidays too – and we welcome you!*



## DIG INTO SPRING!

Kick off the gardening season on Saturday, May 17th from 8:00 AM to noon, when Central Gardens will host its annual Plant Sale and Gardening Fair on the Activity Lawn located just inside the main entrance.

Volunteers are preparing hundreds of perennials for the sale that have come from Central Gardens as well as the community. For more than 10 years, we have been very fortunate to have Cheryl Flaucher, an especially generous gardener, contribute over 100 potted plants for the sale to support our community. Thank you, Cheryl! What a wonderful way to support the Gardens and help ensure all of north Iowa can enjoy the beauty nature brings.

In addition, last fall we began transplanting plants from the Gardens with hopes of a head start to this season's sale. One plant we are highlighting is the shade loving Ligularia, or Leopard Plant. These wide leafed perennials love shade and tolerate dry conditions. It is one of the few perennial shade plants to offer up stalks of bright yellow flowers.

This sale is one of Central Gardens main fundraisers and so we welcome any donations of perennials such as hostas, salvia, ferns, irises, day lilies and any other plants that may have been a bit too successful in your garden. Please bring them potted or just in a bag to Central Garden's School Bell Gazebo by Friday, May 16th. It is a wonderful way to support the Gardens and maintain your own garden as well.

In addition to the plant sales, we will have local vendors Chris White, Jesse Fox, AT Welding, and Gary Heydt showcasing garden art and decor. There will be professionals at hand to answer gardening questions, a May Pole dance at 10 AM, and, as always, a make & take gardening project for children. For over 20 years, this event has been a popular way to start off the season and we hope you will join us on May 17th!



# SAVE THE DATES!

## *Events and Activities at the Gardens!*

### **OPENING DAY**

*Thursday, May 1, 2025*

Gates open daily from dawn to dusk through October 31. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

**YARD GAMES** Bring your friends and family to Central Gardens to play Cornhole and Bocce Ball on the Activity Lawn. The games are free and all equipment is provided.

### **VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE**

*Sunday, May 4, 2 PM – 4 PM*

Come find your place in Central Gardens! Join us for refreshments and get information about volunteering at Central Gardens. All ages and abilities are welcome!

### **LINE DANCING**

*Tuesdays, May 13 – Sept 16, 9:30 AM– 10:30 AM*

Join us inside the main entrance in the fountain courtyard for line dancing with Mary Jo. All ages and abilities are welcome. Free.

### **GARDENING FAIR AND PLANT SALE**

*Saturday, May 17, 8 AM – 12 PM*

This annual event features a wide variety of perennial plants and garden art for sale and offers a free garden education and planting activity for kids.

### **MAYPOLE DANCE**

*Saturday, May 17, 10 AM*

We are currently seeking volunteers to orchestrate an old-fashioned dance around the Maypole. To get involved, please email [info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com](mailto:info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com).

### **GARDEN EXPLORERS**

*Fridays, June 6 – August 15, 9 AM – 11 AM*

Kids can dig in, taste, and explore in the Bee Happy Discovery Garden. A special garden activity is featured each week along with visits from Lime Creek Nature Center, the Clear Lake Arts Center, Surf Music Enrichment Center, and much more! Free.

### **FRESH ON FRIDAY**

*Fridays, June 6 – August 29, 9 AM – 11 AM*

Fresh-cut flowers, arranged in stunning bouquets by talented volunteers, are available for purchase. Plus, enjoy complimentary coffee or infused ice water and treats on the patio with friends. A fun way to start the weekend!

### **SUMMER GARDEN PARTY**

*Sunday, June 22, 12 PM*

This annual fundraising event is a time for the community to support Central Gardens and enjoy live music, delicious food and drinks, and a spirited auction.

### **PICNICS & PERFORMANCES**

*Sundays, July 20 – September 7, 5 PM – 6 PM*

A fresh lineup of local and regional musicians will perform in this eight-week, family-friendly summer concert series. Free.

**JULY 20:** Sister Luv- Variety

**JULY 27:** Vintage Café – Light jazz

**AUG 3:** Jon & Jen Hepperly – Country

**AUG 10:** Come Back Buddy – 50s

**AUG 17:** Levi Smith – Acoustic

**AUG 24:** Jordan Messerole – Rhythm & Blues

**AUG 31:** Matt Woods – Blues

**SEPT 7:** The Nonsemble – Swing, Pop, 70s

# SAVE THE DATE

*continued...*

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 7, 4 PM - 5 PM

The community is invited to this celebration of Central Gardens 25th year! There will be live music, yard games, a brief program, and cake. Free.

## PUMPKIN PALOOZA

Saturday, October 11, 4 PM - 7 PM

An event celebrating all things pumpkin with carving contests for local businesses, pumpkin painting, food demos, activities, music, and a lighted pumpkin parade. Free.

*More grows in the garden than the gardener sows.  
- Spanish Proverb*



CENTRAL  
GARDENS  
of NORTH IOWA

# JOIN US FOR THE GARDEN PARTY

## A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AND GIVING!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 12 noon, and get ready to experience an unforgettable afternoon at The Garden Party, Central Gardens' premier annual fundraising event!

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Ceremonial Lawn, this year's gathering promises an afternoon filled with music, laughter, and generosity. As the talented Mr. Jeff sets the mood with his lively tunes, you'll enjoy a delightful summer luncheon, decadent desserts, and refreshing beverages—all included with your admission.

But that's not all—our lively auction will feature an array of unique and upscale items, along with special opportunities to directly support the activities of Central Gardens. Your participation ensures that our beloved gardens continue to flourish as a welcoming, educational, and tranquil space for all generations to enjoy.

For over two decades, this fundraiser has evolved from a Tour of Homes and garden parties to the vibrant and cherished event it is today. Through rain, rescheduling, and even a global pandemic, our community's commitment has never wavered—and this year, we invite you to be part of this ongoing tradition of generosity and growth.

Your support—through ticket purchases, auction participation, or donations—makes all the difference. Together, we cultivate more than just gardens; we cultivate community, beauty, and a shared legacy. Join us and let's grow something beautiful together!

## GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

We can't wait to see you in the Gardens!





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

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 Holdredge Construction  
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[www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com](http://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com)

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