

JULY 2025



What's Growing On!

at Central Gardens of North Iowa

PICNICS & PERFORMANCES KICKS OFF ON JULY 20TH

IT'S OUR 10TH SEASON!

Join us at Central Gardens on Sunday afternoons, July 20 through September 7, 5 PM – 6 PM, for the tenth annual Picnics and Performances. This eight-week concert series promises a little something for everyone, with a diverse lineup of performances and a whole lot of fun!

Bring a picnic, a beverage of choice, a comfy seat, and settle in on the Activity Lawn around the School Bell Gazebo for the shows. There's no charge to attend, though we appreciate donations to support the maintenance and upkeep of the Gardens.

JULY 20: Sister Luv offers a diverse repertoire that spans decades, from the captivating melodies of the 1920s to the infectious pop hits of the 1980s, alongside classic country and soul-stirring gospel.

JULY 27: Jane Todey and Ed Kelly are Vintage Café, offering a mix of light jazz and easy listening that promises to please any musical appetite. August 3 - Jon and Jen Hepperly, who have been performing for years in and around Clear Lake, will come together in a more intimate setting to play old hits and new, featuring pop, country, blues, soul, and folk.

AUGUST 10: Come Back Buddy is a 4-piece rock-n-roll band inspired by the legendary Buddy Holly and the Crickets. The group's repertoire features music from the 50s, including Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Ricky Nelson, and, of course, Buddy Holly.

AUGUST 17: Known for his diverse songwriting and acoustic guitar accompaniment, singer-songwriter Levi Smith's style can be defined as alternative rock with hints of Americana and classic rock.

AUGUST 24: Jordan Messerole blends the sounds of his guitar with thoughtful lyrics, engaging stories, and a rack harmonica to tell gritty American tales that are bound to evoke emotion from listeners.

SEPTEMBER 7: The Nonsemble is a group of amateur musicians from across north Iowa formed nearly 20 years ago by the late Jim Larson of Clear Lake. They play a variety of music from swing to pop to 70's and everything in between.

Central Gardens is grateful to the Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation for underwriting Picnics and Performances for the tenth year straight, making it possible to pay a modest sum to the performers. Corporate sponsors this season are CL Tel, Hearing Associates, Laird Law Firm, Metalcraft, and Pla-Ground Family Farms.



*...Summer is all a green sound—
Rippling in the foreground
To that soft applause,
The foam of Queen Anne's lace.
Green, green in the ear
Is all we care to hear—
Until a field suddenly flashes
The singing with so sharp
A yellow that it crashes
Loud cymbals in the ear,
Minor has turned to major
As summer, lulling and so mild,
Goes golden-buttercup-wild.
May Sarton - Summer Music*





A REFRESHED PAVILION

The Nature Education Pavilion underwent a much-needed makeover in recent weeks thanks to a generous donation bequeathed by Gary Nyhus, a former board member and devoted volunteer, and shepherded by his widow, Sandy, to refresh the space.

Built in 2011, the Pavilion is used extensively by volunteers to orchestrate various events such as Fresh on Fridays, Summer Garden Party, Cooking Up Culture, and Pumpkin Palooza, and to conduct committee and board meetings. The Pavilion is also available for rent, attracting hundreds of visitors to Central Gardens who come for weddings, showers, birthday parties, and celebration of life services.

The project included replacing the fluorescent lighting with LED throughout the building, adding cabinets and replacing

countertops, adding electrical, replacing carpet, painting both levels, updating the sinks, updating the appliances, washing the windows, and several other items. The result is a fresh, clean space that is more functional, efficient, and beautiful.

Dean Hanson, a volunteer since 2017, expertly managed the project by tending to the smallest details and coordinating the many vendors involved in making the updates. He went above and beyond to ensure the project's success, and his service to Central Gardens is deeply appreciated. A special shoutout to Paul Brown, Paul's Home Painting, and Kevin Burtness, Kevin Burtness Plumbing, who also volunteered significant time and talents to this project. Thank you!

For information about renting the Nature Education Pavilion, please contact us at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com



CENTRAL GARDENS SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

Iowa Travel Industry Partners (iTIP), the leading statewide association of the tourism and hospitality industry, has awarded Central Gardens of North Iowa for its sustainability initiatives. The award recognizes organizations that minimize the environmental impact of human activities while promoting tourism in Iowa. We are grateful to Libbey Holm, Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, for nominating Central Gardens, and to iTIP for this prestigious award.



SUMMER GARDEN PARTY A MODEST SUCCESS!

Our deepest thanks to all who supported Central Gardens' Summer Garden Party by purchasing tickets and those who braved the heat and wind to participate in the auction. Thanks again to the sponsors who made the event possible. And to the donors whose time, talents, and treasure poured out for Central Gardens, thank you.



Special thanks to the Summer Garden Party planning committee members Tyler Wiegel, Becke Dorenbusch, Becky Lessard, Diane Laabs, Kaye Allison, and Renee Diemer. We also want to thank Leigh Trembath for organizing the Gardeners of Tomorrow, thank the Gardeners of Tomorrow for their service for this event.

Unfortunately, the heat and wind kept a good share of this year's Summer Garden Party ticketholders from joining us. That, combined with fewer ticket sales than we had hoped for, resulted in fewer auction sales and less revenue than had been budgeted. If you missed the event and would like to donate to the fundraiser, please consider providing essential funding for our summer groundskeepers at \$150 or children's programs at \$90. Donations can be made online or during Fresh on Friday throughout the season.

FRESH ON FRIDAYS SCHEDULE CHANGE

Get your table ready for celebration with a fresh bouquet from Central Gardens on Thursday, July 3rd! Fresh on Friday is moving to Thursday for one week only.

ON THURSDAY, JULY 3,
9 AM – 11 AM, Central Gardens will have beautiful bouquets available for purchase for just \$10! Garden Explorers and refreshments are cancelled the week of the 4th.



2025 Corporate Members

DESIGNER (\$2,500 AND UP)



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



CARETAKER (\$500 - \$999)

Bombie, Inc. (Bonnie Hall)

Clear Lake Bank & Trust

Sail Inn

Steve Wright Outdoor Lighting

PLANTER (\$250 - \$499)

Bergland + Cram Architects

Brother's Ace Hardware

Clear Lake Arts Center

ControlPrint Creative

Farmers State Bank

Glen's Tire Service

Holdredge Construction

Jane Fischer & Associates

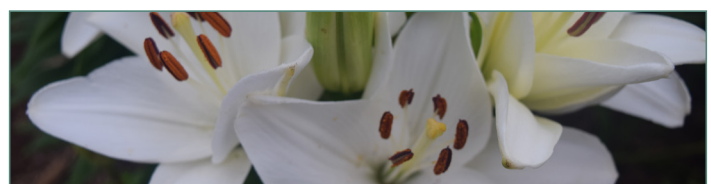
Kevin Burtness Plumbing

Lake Liquors

Laurie Cook Photography

Metalcraft, Inc.

Pla-Ground Family Farms





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

Address Service Requested

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT CENTRAL GARDENS

Central Gardens gates are open dawn to dusk each day. Come enjoy Bocce Ball and corn hole on the Activity Lawn. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website for information on activities, events, and programs coming up in the Gardens.

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 9 AM - 11 AM

Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales

FRIDAYS, JULY 11, 18, AND 25, 9 AM - 11 AM

Garden Explorers. Free.

FRIDAYS, JULY 11, 18, AND 25, 9 AM - 11 AM

Fresh on Friday Bouquet Sales and Refreshments.

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 5 PM - 6 PM

Picnics & Performances - Sister Luv. Free.

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 5 PM - 6 PM

Picnics & Performances - Vintage Cafe. Free.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 4 PM - 6 PM

25th Anniversary Celebration. Free.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 4 PM - 7 PM

Pumpkin Palooza. Free.

