

# NewsLetter

SUMMER 2011

## Join us for the 35th Annual Home and Garden Tour Sunday, September 11 from 1-6 pm

*Homes on McLean, Harbert and Central Avenues featured*

**L**ooking for inspiration for your next home project? You will find many ideas for your home and garden from an inside view of six never before featured Central Gardens homes. In addition, you will be treated to local musical talent throughout the afternoon at the historic Beethoven Club. Beginning at the corner of McLean and Peabody you are invited to be curious as you visit inside two homes on McLean, three on Harbert, and one on Central Avenue. Each home is an exceptional example of how you may blend the old with the new and maximize the uniqueness of our neighborhood. See page 3, to find out how and where you can purchase tickets to attend this time-honored Central Gardens event.

2011 Tour Chair, Susie Jabbour and the entire home tour team sincerely thank the six families who are opening their homes and the six sponsors for helping make the tour possible. Sponsors this year include: Lexus of Memphis, Methodist Hospital, Chick-fil-A, Central Animal Hospital, Peabody Family Care, and Hobson Realtors.



*Home Tour  
Opening Doors  
to the Past,  
Present, Future*

### Top 10 Reasons To Go on a Home Tour

You will:

- Find out as much about your own tastes as your neighbors
- Discover great ideas
- Be saved from making some decorating mistakes
- Find out about unknown decorating resources
- Find some energy-saving ideas
- Learn how to balance the old with the new
- Uncover local history
- Learn about contractors with a specialty in old houses
- Get landscaping ideas
- Renew your love of old houses!

*(Old House Journal May-June 2009)*

Please visit our website: [www.centralgardens.org](http://www.centralgardens.org).

## The Six Tour Homes are:

### 1852 Harbert Avenue, Adam G. Jett House, 1910

This unusually large bungalow with its curvy stone piers, rich exterior mixture of textures and materials, and lovely Arts & Crafts interior, has been attributed to architect Neander Montgomery Woods, Jr. It is certainly fitting that twenty-first century architects, Mary and Reb Haizlip, are the owners of a house designed by an early twentieth century Memphis architect noted for his great originality. No doubt Woods would have been very pleased to know that, over a hundred years after designing the house, it would be in the hands of two talented architects. The homeowners have corrected the poorly designed 1990s renovations, expanded and renovated the kitchen (adding a mudroom and laundry area), and installed new style-appropriate lighting throughout the house. They have also completed the landscaping of the front and rear yards.



### 1785 Harbert Avenue, Donald P. Mann House, 1911

Praised by author Eugene J. Johnson as “the finest true Colonial Revival structure in the city” in Memphis, An Architectural Guide, this two-and-a-half story house is home to the Collier family. Ginger and Dabney Collier purchased the home in 2009 but didn’t occupy it until a complete renovation and restoration was finished, almost two years later. The renovation included replacing existing wiring and plumbing, adding a porch off of the kitchen for outdoor dining and making minor changes to the floor plans of the upper stories to better accommodate the family’s private living space. All of the wonderful original hardware, woodwork and bathroom fixtures were preserved or restored. Furthermore,



the bathrooms and the kitchen were returned to their beautiful early twentieth century roots; this transformation was accomplished by using period appropriate designs, materials and details.

### 1914 Harbert Avenue, J. Harley Sewell House, 1925

Homeowner Carol Winn also recently completed a two-year renovation and restoration of this house, living in it while all of the work was being done. In 2006, she purchased the Tudor Revival cottage with original doors and hardware that had been “remuddled” by previous owners. The 1920s-style handcrafted built-in book cases, linen cabinets and a butler’s pantry were added to the first floor. The outdated 1970s kitchen was gutted and replaced with a beautifully designed one that is in keeping with the style of the home. The cramped attic master bedroom and bath were also gutted. A light-filled master suite with no traces of its attic ancestry was produced by raising the rear roof, adding dormers and reconfiguring the space. The suite now consists of a spacious bedroom and bath with an adjacent laundry area and a walk-in closet that is really a dressing room with all of the bells and whistles.



### 1743 Harbert Avenue, Frank C. Milton House, 1923

In 2005, Calvin Turley purchased his childhood home from the estate of his mother, Cordelia Turley. The one-and-a-half story stucco house with its European-influenced style has proved to be the perfect house for Calvin and his wife Louise. So perfect in fact, that no renovation or restoration work has been necessary.



The homeowners have, however, changed the exterior color scheme of the house to one that emphasizes its European heritage and furnished the interior to beautifully complement its sophisticated design. The rear garden, viewed from the living room and sunken dining room through a dramatic curved wall of windows, has been completely reworked because of tree losses. The former, more formal, shade garden has been transformed into a sunny flower-filled one.

**592 South McLean Boulevard, William A. Bridewell House, 1924**

Because it was designed in the Federal Style, this house would be very common in New England but is quite uncommon in Central Gardens and other historic Memphis neighborhoods. The two-story red brick house has a commanding presence partly due to its driveway and those of the adjacent houses being in the rear, allowing for an unbroken expanse of green in the front. In just three years, the homeowner has bedded all new landscaping to further enhance the front of the house. The rear yard has also been landscaped, and a full-width wooden pergola has recently been built over an existing patio. An impressive number of do-it-yourself interior projects have likewise been completed; these include installing new lighting and painting the walls and ceilings in many of the rooms.



**688 South McLean Boulevard, William W. Robinson House, 1913**

Dr. Lynda Sagrestano and her husband Dr. Robert Yelle purchased this two-story painted brick house with notable exterior columns and interior center hallways in 2008. Following the Preservation Guidelines of the Secretary of the Interior, the homeowners immediately began researching the history of the house to better understand it. The pair compiled a history that would impress even the Secretary of the Interior. Their findings include extensive newspaper coverage from 1962 on the addition of the stone columns to the front porch of the house rescued from the demolition of the 1907 Goodwyn Institute Building. The spacious second floor center hall has been turned into a charming family library with built-in bookcases, a window seat and upholstered chairs that are very stylish and comfortable.



## Get Your Tour Tickets Today!

Your tickets are available via several convenient options:

- **Become a Patron CGA member.** Join the Central Gardens Association for 2011/2012 at the Patron level and receive two free tickets. Go online to join or renew your membership via [www.CentralGardens.org](http://www.CentralGardens.org) website.
- **Go online.** New this year, purchase your tickets online via [www.CentralGardens.org](http://www.CentralGardens.org) website.
- **Visit one of the advance sale locations.**
- **Purchase on the day of the tour** at the The Beethoven Club, 263 S. McLean or any of the tour homes.

### Tickets are now available at:

- CGA website ([www.centralgardens.org](http://www.centralgardens.org))
- Miss Cordelia's Grocery, 737 Harbor Bend Road
- Palladio Antiques & Art, 2169 Central
- Market Central, 2215 Central Avenue
- Wiles-Smith Drugstore, 1635 Union
- Las Savell Jewelry, 61 S. McLean Blvd.
- 1910 Frame Works, 2029 Union Ave.
- Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 S. Cooper
- Burke's Book Store, 936 S. Cooper
- The Booksellers at Laurelwood, 387 Perkins Road Ext.
- Babcock Gifts, 4626 Poplar Ave.
- Woman's Exchange of Memphis, 88 Racine Street
- Schnuck's on Union (Sat. Sept. 11 only)

Pick-up for tickets purchased online or as part of your Patron CGA membership is available at The Beethoven Club, 263 S. McLean Blvd. on the day of the tour from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

# Neighborhood Elects New Board Members

The following members were elected to the Central Gardens Board at the Annual Meeting in May:

**William Breen** works at Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare. He lives in the 1700 block of Vinton Avenue. Bill's hobbies include gardening, landscaping, reading and travel. He is also a Board member of the Mid South Chapter of the American Red Cross. Bill is interested in serving on the Board because of his interest in preservation, history and architecture. He is on the Landmarks and Beautification committees.

**Sharon Burch** has lived in Central Gardens since 1989 and raised two children with the youngest leaving for school in a couple of weeks. This is the second time that Sharon has served on the board and her volunteer work on the Beautification and Communication committees is very much appreciated. She regularly keeps us updated in the newsletter with what's happening with our famous Central Gardens Arboretum.

**Stephany Goodnight** has lived in the 600 block of Melrose for the past 10 years and has been working at AutoZone, Inc. (at the Store Support Center downtown)



Say hello to new board members: L to R, Stephanie, Dan, Barbara and Bill. Unfortunately, Sharon could not attend the photo shoot!

equally as long. Stephany's hobbies include traveling and attending concerts, as well as entertaining and spending time with friends and family. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Leadership Academy, and participates in the automotive aftermarket as a member of the Women's Board of the Car Care Council and as a member of the Audit Committee for the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association. Stephany is on the Annual Meeting and Communications committees.

**Daniel Reid** lives in the 1500 block of Linden Avenue between Kimbrough and Willett. He works at First Tennessee Bank and serves as the Chairman for the Memphis Health, Education, and Housing Board for the City of Memphis as well as a member of the Rotary

Club. His hobbies are vintage cars and anything old (including his house!). He joined the board because he has lived in the neighborhood for over 15 years and thought it was time to get more involved with the neighborhood he loves. He is on the Landmarks and Security Committees.

**Barbara Sysak** and her husband Gary moved to Central Gardens a little over a year ago. The couple specifically researched neighborhoods in Midtown because they enjoy diversity, great restaurants, proximity to parks, museums, walking and biking. Barbara is on the Board of Creative Aging Mid-South and is a volunteer with MIFA. Barbara is on the Security Committee and is the new editor of the Central Gardens Newsletter.

# A Tree to Consider

by Sharon Burch

**W**hat is the difference between a small tree and a large shrub? The Central Gardens Arboretum Committee selected the widely accepted definition of a tree as being a woody plant with height potential of 15 feet or greater. However, there are also dwarf trees, which is a definition of the plant subject of this article. But, be forewarned: some would say it is but a shrub.

Harry Lauder's walking stick, *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta', is one of the newer members of our arboretum. And even though it might not be a tree we should examine it as a possible plant for your yard. The walking stick is not picky about location, light, water or soil and is resistant to most diseases and pests. There are few selections you could make for your garden that could be more tolerant and forgiving of poor treatment. Truth be told, I had one of these trees survive a few winters ago in a wheelbarrow half filled with ice. My husband was certain I had killed the poor little thing, but, alas, it survived and is thriving.

This deciduous plant is slow growing, reaching heights of five to ten feet and spreading eight to twelve feet. And while it is a lovely little plant while leafed out,



Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta')

its true value is revealed after autumn leaves have fallen. Your eyes will be drawn to it with its curiously tightly curled corkscrew limbs all winter long. In fact, you will probably visually lean on Harry Lauder's walking stick all the drab winter long.



Louise Stilwell asked that you bring your Pull-Tabs to any house on the Home Tour.

## You Can Make A Difference By Collecting Just One Pull-Tab At A Time.

by Louise Stilwell (Nine years old)

**P**LEASE! Save your pull-tabs off of soda cans, canned pet food, or any other canned product. Many residents of Central Gardens collect pull-tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, and I hope everyone will join in this effort. The Ronald McDonald house is a place for families with children who have serious illnesses and are undergoing long-term care.

The Central Gardens neighborhood has successfully collected and donated many pounds of pull-tabs each year. I would especially like to mention Mrs. Paulean Lewellen from a nearby neighborhood. She read of our effort and, along with her family, collected more than 11 pounds of pull-tabs. The Lewellen family has made the biggest contribution yet.

At the Central Gardens Annual Home Tour there will be bins available at each home to drop off your pull-tabs. If you can't make it to the Home Tour, my parents are always available to come and pick them up. Just email them at [mstilwell70@hotmail.com](mailto:mstilwell70@hotmail.com).

# Community Spirit Comes Alive on the Fourth of July

By Holly Hagan

Central Gardens residents celebrated Independence Day with their long-standing July 4th Parade. It's a day for families, fire trucks, mounted police, cool drinks, free food and lots of fun.

An estimated crowd of over 400 came out to the Carr Avenue location to watch and participate in the festivities. Excitement filled the air even before the parade got underway, as Central Gardens residents came together to prepare for the Fourth of July festivities. The Independence spirit is wonderful, but what I really love is the community spirit. Families attend and it's become a really important and loved event for our neighborhood.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked concessions, hung decorations, set up and cleaned up — and, of

course, to the residents of Carr Avenue. We were privileged to have officers from the Memphis Police Department's Union Avenue Station lead us in the parade. Thanks also to crews from Firehouse 11 on Union Avenue for bringing their fire trucks to add to the festivities for the children. The mounted police once again were a big draw for the kids at the beginning of the parade.

We were lucky again this year for the "voice of Central Gardens," Mike Synk, to emcee the program. The festivities also included a special greeting by Congressman Steve Cohen and patriotic live music performed by soloist Circuit Court Judge Karen Williams and keyboardist John Boatner.

It's an annual tradition sponsored by the Central Gardens Association for neighborhood residents.



*Community Spirit meets Patriotic Spirit.*



*Donita Cunningham and Ed Hanna*



*Paul Jones, Edward Henley and John Henley*



*Faster than a speeding bullet.*



*Lolly and Eliza Jean Easley*



*Editor's favorite shot!*



*Mike Synk was our emcee.*

## Home Sale Information

| ADDRESS              | SPECS        | STYLE        | AGE     | SALE PRICE   | \$ PER SF |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>January</b>       |              |              |         |              |           |
| 1859 Vinton          | 3 BR, 2.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1913 | \$289,000.00 | \$121.00  |
| 1890 Cowden          | 4 BR, 3 BA   | Bungalow     | c. 1908 | \$227,054.00 | \$116.00  |
| 1379 Peabody         | 4 BR, 2.5 BA | English      | c. 1902 | \$250,000.00 | \$80.00   |
| 1816 Victorian Place | 3 BR, 2BA    | Traditional  | c. 2001 | \$214,000.00 | \$99.00   |
| 1458 Central         | 3 BR, 1.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1941 | \$70,700.00  | \$46.00   |
| <b>February</b>      |              |              |         |              |           |
| 1449 Harbert         | 4 BR, 2.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1912 | \$554,500.00 | \$137.00  |
| 1870 Peabody Green   | 4 BR, 2.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 2005 | \$290,800.00 | \$100.00  |
| 1776 Harbert         | 4 BR, 3 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1925 | \$185,000.00 | \$64.00   |
| 1407 Peabody         | 3 BR, 3 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1912 | \$204,900.00 | \$88.00   |
| 1767 Vinton          | 3 BR, 1 BA   | Bungalow     | c. 1917 | \$183,500.00 | \$107.00  |
| 1482 Central         | 3 BR, 1.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1955 | \$152,000.00 | \$85.00   |
| 786 Roland           | 3 BR, 3 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1934 | \$82,500.00  | \$41.00   |
| <b>March</b>         |              |              |         |              |           |
| 1468 Vinton          | 3 BR, 2.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1905 | \$345,000.00 | \$124.00  |
| 1425 Peabody         | 4 BR, 2.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1902 | \$257,500.00 | \$94.00   |
| 256 Pine             | 3 BR, 2 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1901 | \$78,750.00  | \$31.00   |
| <b>April</b>         |              |              |         |              |           |
| 1481 Peabody         | 5 BR, 4.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1917 | \$396,200.00 | \$83.00   |
| 1612 Carr            | 4 BR, 2.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1912 | \$225,000.00 | \$86.00   |
| 664 Rozelle          | 3 BR, 2 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1930 | \$200,000.00 | \$89.00   |
| 1943 Carr            | 3 BR, 1 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1912 | \$137,500.00 | \$109.00  |
| <b>May</b>           |              |              |         |              |           |
| 1731 Peabody         | 3 BR, 4 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1918 | \$350,000.00 | \$100.00  |
| 1755 York            | 3 BR, 1 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1922 | \$148,500.00 | \$95.00   |
| 780 Metcalf          | 2 BR, 2 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1953 | \$120,000.00 | \$111.00  |
| <b>June</b>          |              |              |         |              |           |
| 225 Belvedere        | 4 BR, 3.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1900 | \$531,500.00 | \$117.00  |
| 1412 Harbert         | 4 BR, 3 BA   | Traditional  | c. 1905 | \$435,000.00 | \$137.00  |
| 1757 Carr            | 3 BR, 2.5 BA | Traditional  | c. 1916 | \$354,500.00 | \$144.00  |
| 1402 Linden          | 4 BR, 2.5 BA | Contemporary | c. 1981 | \$285,000.00 | \$84.00   |
| 1594 Linden          | 4 BR, 2.5 BA | Bungalow     | c. 1930 | \$215,000.00 | \$96.00   |
| 1983 Linden          | 3 BR, 2 BA   | Bungalow     | c. 1922 | \$215,000.00 | \$127.00  |
| 1384 Harbert         | 3 BR, 1 BA   | Bungalow     | c. 1910 | \$180,000.00 | \$108.00  |
| 1391 Linden          | 3 BR, 1.5 BA | Bungalow     | c. 1932 | \$155,000.00 | \$108.00  |
| 1394 Harbert         | 3 BR, 1 BA   | Bungalow     | c. 1928 | \$125,000.00 | \$82.00   |

Information deemed reliable but not warranted.

Leigh Martin, Central Gardens resident for six years, is a Life Member of the Memphis Area Association of Realtors Multi-Million Dollar Club. Leigh has also been a real estate agent with Sowell and Company for eleven years. If you need to contact Leigh, please call 901.351.3877 or email her at martlei@aol.com.

## Yours in Scouting... 90th Anniversary of Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church Troop 34

Troop 34 is proud and committed to sponsor the concession stands for the 35th Annual Home and Garden Tour. This Boy Scout troop (ages 10 ½ to 18) was started in November, 1920, the same year as the local scout council, Chickasaw Council. Last November, the troop celebrated its 90th Anniversary. The troop is known as The Eagle's Nest, because it has advanced most of its scouts to the rank of Eagle, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. The troop enjoys camping one weekend each month, spending two weeks at summer camp at Kia Kima in Hardy, AR and traveling to a high adventure camp most summers. The troop is well represented by Central Gardens' boys, as well as a healthy cross-section of the community. Over 40 scouts currently participate and meet at GSL on Wednesdays from 7:15 -8:45 pm. To learn more about joining the troop, please contact Dan Eason, the Scoutmaster at his office, 327-3800.

# The Beethoven Club

By Steven King

**T**he Beethoven club has enjoyed a long and rich history. Founded in 1888, the club is one of the longest operating classical music clubs in the country.

Recently, the Club shifted its focus to the promotion and development of young, local classical musicians. The Club presents the Avanti Concert Series and two competitions: the Beethoven Piano Sonata Competition and the Young Artists Competition, as well as a wide variety of other concerts presented by local artists.

The current President, Patricia Gray explains: "We are delighted to be developing more and more programs that support and reward young classical musicians as they begin their careers. We feel like that is the most important thing the Beethoven Club can contribute to classical music in Memphis and the surrounding area."

If you are interested in learning more about the Beethoven Club, you may e-mail the Beethoven Club at [www.beethovenclubmemphis.org](http://www.beethovenclubmemphis.org).



*The Beethoven Club, located at 263 South McLean Boulevard at the corner of Peabody and McLean, will be home base for the Home Tour.*



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