

# NewsLetter

FALL 2012

## Home Tour: a Record-Breaking Success

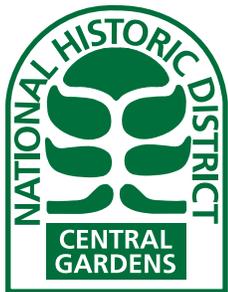
By *Marsba Hayes*

In 1912, the Gravure Illustration Company of Chicago published a portfolio with photographs of Memphis' best architecture including a number of houses in the Central Gardens Historic District. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of these fine photographs, six of the portfolio's exceptional houses were featured on the 2012 tour thanks to the current owners: Kerriann and Mike Axt, Denise and Philip Bollheimer, Alice and George Burruss, Marybeth and Art Huggins, Peggy and LaVerne Lovell and Sarah and Niel Prosser. The gracious homeowners, together with top-notch Home Tour committee members, dedicated neighborhood volunteers, generous underwriters, sponsors and advertisers, made it possible for the Central Gardens Association to make a profit of just over \$23,000—the most ever earned by a tour.

The Home Tour is Central Gardens' only fundraiser. The money raised, along with neighborhood dues, funds the Christmas wreaths, Fourth of July Parade, Springfest and the Annual Meeting. In addition, it supports the neighborhood arboretum, tree replacement and median maintenance. However, the tour also serves as a highly publicized and attended event which helps promote our neighborhood and its attributes. This ultimately contributes to the quality of life in Central Gardens, both in terms of attracting future residents and increasing property values.

Much of the success of this year's Home Tour as a fundraiser and a marketing tool for our neighborhood was due not only to the six beautiful houses on tour, but also to the following underwriters, sponsors and publications: ANF Architects; Sharon and Reggi Burch; Café 1912; The Commercial Appeal; Deborah and Bob Craddock; Eclectic Eye; FedEx; Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School; Hobson Realtors; Drs. Amy and John Huber; Joe's Wines & Liquors; Lexus of Memphis; Methodist LeBonheur HealthCare; 1910 Frame Works; Premier Transportation Services; RSVP Memphis magazine; Dr. Allison Stiles; Style 1900 magazine and the University Club of Memphis.

Thanks to everyone who made the 2012 tour such a success!



*“...at it best,  
preservation  
engages the past  
in a conversation  
with the present  
over a mutual  
concern for  
the future.”*

— *William J. Murtagh*

To sign up for E-News and receive monthly emails about what's happening in our neighborhood, go to [www.centralgardens.org](http://www.centralgardens.org)

# Unsung Heroes of the Home Tour

## HEAD DOCENTS RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS AND MORE!

by Liz Willis

As the docent chair serving on the Central Gardens Home Tour Committee for the past two years, I want to say a big “thank you” to the great people who served as the head docents for each of the tour homes. They are truly the unsung heroes of the home tour. This year our head docents were: Courtney Brown, LaUna Brubaker, Cindy McBrayer, Martha Podesta, Beverly Trojan, Rebecca Tuttle and Nancy Wood.

The head docents recruit the docent volunteers and work with the homeowners to map out the flow for touring and to create the interesting information and history regarding the homes for the docents to share. Their preparation and the warm greetings and welcoming attitudes of the many docent volunteers make the Central Gardens Home Tour such an enjoyable experience for all who attend each year.

## CASHIERS DO MORE THAN MAKE CHANGE

by Diane Youree

The success of the Central Gardens Home Tour relies also on 24 cashier volunteers! I would like to extend a great round of thanks to our neighbors who give of their time working as cashiers for the Home Tour. These fine cashiers not only welcome guests and share information about our wonderful neighborhood, but they also do a super job at keeping the money straight! I appreciate the dedication of the cashiers who continue working year after year.

Please consider volunteering as either a cashier or docent next year. It is a great and fun way to help with our neighborhood’s biggest fundraiser. To volunteer for docent, contact Liz Willis at [lizpwillis@comcast.net](mailto:lizpwillis@comcast.net). To volunteer for cashier, contact Diane Youree at [dyouree2@bellsouth.net](mailto:dyouree2@bellsouth.net).

# Guidelines at a Glance...Fences

by Christina Hall,

Central Gardens Landmarks Committee

Fences in Central Gardens require a Certificate of Approval (COA) from The Memphis Landmarks Commission ([www.memphislandmarks.com](http://www.memphislandmarks.com)). Front-yard fences in Central Gardens are not the norm; in fact most of the fences you see today are recent additions to our neighborhood. Many were built with little thought to the history or architectural style of the home or the neighborhood.

There are several reasons people may contemplate a fence—animals, children and security. Having a safe and secure area for your children and animals is important. However, numerous fences along a street will send a message that the neighborhood isn’t safe. By fencing your front entrance you may be providing a safe haven for intruders and over time may cause potential blight in our neighborhood. Research shows that creating a family-friendly environment with good lighting, well-groomed lawns and alleys along with neighbors that look out for each other will prevent crime more than fences.

Still, a simple yet small decorative fence can be a landscape feature that may help secure the area while simultaneously enhancing the home’s architectural style.

Thorny bushes with stickers may be more cost-effective at deterring a criminal than a fence. A potential intruder might think twice about trying a door or window surrounded by sticker bushes.

Before considering a fence, please think about other alternatives. Fear and pride are contagious elements of a neighborhood’s culture. Let’s try to focus on the pride and friendly atmosphere we want to maintain in our community. Instead of sending a negative message to the newcomers in our city, let’s put out a welcome mat and tell them how great our neighborhood is and promote interaction among each other.

For additional information please access our website at [www.centralgardens.org](http://www.centralgardens.org) for a copy of the *Architectural Design Guidelines and Users Guide*.

The Landmarks Committee is looking for a few new members. Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Christina Hall at [chall1566@gmail.com](mailto:chall1566@gmail.com) if you are interested.

# Meet Our New Board Members



Leah J. Roen

## LEAH J. ROEN

Leah has lived in Central Gardens for 15 years. As a new board member, she joined the Legal Committee and the Membership Committee. She adores Central Gardens as it “provides the lost sense of neighborhood as well as lovely architecture, artistic design and wonderful tree-lined streets. It is ideal for my lifestyle of walking, riding my bike and being outside with my children and

dogs. Central Gardens is the best residential living Memphis has to offer.”



Amanda Meredith

## AMANDA MEREDITH

Amanda is a second-grade teacher at Woodland Presbyterian School. She earned two degrees from the University of Memphis—a bachelor of science in education and a master of arts in counseling. She is a native Memphian and has lived in Central Gardens for most of her life. Amanda is extremely active in The Junior League of Memphis serving as

Membership Recorder and Bulk Mail Chair. In her spare time she enjoys walking, gardening, decorating, entertaining friends, and spending time with her family and her puppy, Tinky. This year she is chairing the Fourth of July parade in Central Gardens.

## MARTIN EDWARDS



Martin Edwards

Martin and his wife Nancy moved to Central Gardens 30+ years ago to raise their children and to “walk to church” at Grace St. Luke’s and they have loved that decision ever since. As a life-long realtor, he appreciates the wonderful “sense of place” that Central Gardens offers all residents with its architecture, community spirit and sustainability. Proud to serve on the Central Gardens Board, as well as the Landmarks,

Zoning and Safety Committees, Martin hopes to help preserve and enhance this unique Memphis neighborhood for future generations.

## Recent Board Actions

By Nancy Willis, Chair CGA

- Approval of \$200 donation toward sponsorship of 30th Anniversary of Memphis Shelby County Environmental Court and Judge Larry Potter who heads that court. CNN described Judge Larry Potter as the “father of environmental courts” and he is considered among his peers to be a national role model. The Environmental Court has been instrumental in resolving many blight and neglect issues in Central Gardens.
- Appointment of Ruth Henderson to be responsible for distributing newcomer packets. Any new resident who hasn’t received a packet should contact her at rhenderson3@comcast.net or (901) 278-1256.
- Voted to set up a welcome station on Peabody at Belvedere with water and snacks for the St. Jude Marathon runners on Dec. 1. Board members Gayle Christensen and Leah Wiederspahn will coordinate the station activities and welcome volunteers. Neighbors are encouraged to come out all along Peabody to cheer the runners. Runners usually reach Peabody between 8 and 9 a.m.
- Voted to contribute \$500 to support construction of the Fallen Officers Monument honoring police officers that died in the line of duty. This exemplifies our commitment to strengthening our relationship with the Union Avenue Police unit. Colonel Houston, who heads that unit, has expressed the station’s appreciation for support of the monument.

# Keeping Your Home Burglar Proof

by Brian Johnson

**W**hile security experts say there is no fool-proof method, Memphis Police suggest several steps you can take to prevent becoming a victim. The basics include:

- When away, make your home look occupied by leaving lights on, have the grass cut and don't let mail or newspapers collect.
- Make break-ins difficult by using excellent locks on your home, but also secure garages and cars.

Other tips offered by MPD include:

- Keep all valuables out of sight.
- Purchase exterior lighting, including a motion-sensitive light for backyards and keep an outdoor light on at night.
- Fortify all doors and windows by consulting an expert.
- Get an alarm system.

Another key step you can take is to hire Central Gardens Patrol operated by Phelps Security. This service includes around-the-clock neighborhood patrol and individual home checks. For details, call (901) 365-9728. Finally, local authorities stress the most important step to take is to report every crime or suspicious activity. For a complete list of burglary prevention tips, click on [www.memphispolice.org](http://www.memphispolice.org).

## Alley Cleanup for Safety Sake

**S**ome of the alleys in Central Gardens could use a cleanup of trash, debris, and overgrown weeds. According to Billy Garrett, a retired colonel with the MPD and current Phelps Security official, this is an invitation not only to graffiti artists (called taggers), but to burglars and other thieves as well.

If they see unkempt areas, they believe it is okay for their criminal activity. Lighting, cleanliness and even video cameras could help deter this activity. One resident had a sign, "this area under video surveillance."

Not a bad idea since his home had a clean brick wall with no graffiti.



*Residents gathered at the home of Jeni and Jamie Linkous to support the Memphis Police Department. Carr Avenue children (L-R) Anna-Caroline Domas, Eddie Ferguson, Katie Bennett, Lilly Linkous, William Slavney, Grace Ciaramitaro and Maggie Linkous visit with Memphis police officers during Carr Avenue's celebration of National Night Out on Aug. 7.*

# When Minutes Count

## *Can the Police or Fire Department Find Your Home in an Emergency?*

by Kay Price

**T**he Safety Committee is looking at ways to make our neighborhood safer and more secure. Have you ever tried to find a new friend's house in Central Gardens? Sometimes, it is quite tricky. The house numbers are either missing or not visible and the sequence of the house numbers can be misleading. Inspector Faulkner at the Union Station tells us that the fireman have experienced some homes without visible numbers. He stated that in some emergency situations seconds could be very important.

The best solution is to have address numbers that are visible from the street night and day. Take a look at your home and check the visibility day and night of your house numbers. Where are they? Are they at the curb, in the yard, on a column, above the door? In an emergency, can an ambulance driver see the house numbers within seconds? If not, take the time to correct this situation. It could save a life.

# Two Central Gardens Homes Published



*The Cooley home was photographed for Memphis Magazine by our very own Central Gardens' resident, Andrea Zucker.*

**M**any of you may recall our spring issue highlighting three Central Gardens' homes that had been published in 2012. We now can add the contemporary home of Dr. Chris Cooley on South Willett to that list. You can find the article, written by Anne Cunningham O'Neill online in the October issue of Memphis Magazine.

Also, the neighborhood had excellent press coverage for the 36th Annual Home Tour when the Commercial Appeal published a lengthy article about a home on the tour owned by Alice and George Burruss at 1555 Vinton.

It's hard to imagine any other neighborhood in Memphis that has these bragging rights—five homes published in one year.

## We have a Winner! No, Make that Two!

**I**n an effort to educate folks about the architectural styles of homes in Central Gardens, the Landmarks Committee held an architectural styles contest at their booth during the home tour. Two winners were drawn from the entries at the end of the home tour each receiving a \$25 gift card for The Home Depot. The winners are:

- Renee Graves, Central Gardens resident
- Barbara Walker, Southaven, MS

# CGA 2012 Officers and Board of Directors

## OFFICERS

Nancy Willis (President)	1895 Linden Ave.	274-2979	NCW1895@aol.com
Susan Jabbour (Vice President)	1951 Vinton	848-8820	sjabbour@earthlink.net
Stephany Goodnight (Secretary)	572 S. McLean	725-5012	stephanygoodnight@yahoo.com
Holly Hagan (Treasurer)	592 S. McLean	722-3639	mtm592@gmail.com

## DISTRICT 1 (North of Peabody)

Eric Mayse	295 Kimbrough Pl.	729-2955	emayse@yahoo.com
Kay Price	1574 Linden Ave.	726-6390	dkayprice@comcast.net
Dan Reid	1536 Linden Ave.	729-2818	dtreid@ftb.com
Gayle Christensen	1476 Vance Ave.	276-4899	gayle.christensen28@gmail.com
Brent Kernodle	1412 Peabody Ave.	272-0797	brenoodle@hotmail.com
Leah Roen Wiederspahn	1536 Vance Ave.	272-7644	LeahJRoen@gmail.com

## DISTRICT 2 (Peabody South to Harbert)

Matthew Domas	1348 Carr	725-7085	gmdomas@northwestms.edu
Ruth Henderson	1797 Peabody	278-1256	rhenderson3@comcast.net
Martin Edwards, Jr.	1654 Harbert	274-6795	medwards@realtors.org
Libby Pritchard	1800 Harbert	272-3329	
Keith Cole	1780 Vinton	725-6928	keithc4915@aol.com
Leigh Martin	1643 Harbert Ave.		martlei@aol.com

## DISTRICT 3 (South of Harbert)

Amanda Meredith	1487 Goodbar	690-6093	mereditha11@yahoo.com
Barbara Sysak	680 S. McLean	529-7635	barbsysak@gmail.com
Jeff Dillard	1845 Cowden	272-2779	jeff@jdillard.com
Cindy McBrayer	1481 Rosemary Ln.	278-2502	cmcbrayer@mcneillcre.com
Elizabeth Byrd	1677 York	274-1868	ebyrd01@gmail.com
Patrick Tamburrino	1805 Central	489-8408	ptambur@mac.com

## AT LARGE

Bill Breen	1767 Vinton	832-4494	bill.breen@mlh.org
Sharon Burch	1656 Central	725-1201	maggieofm@mac.com
Katie Savage	1777 Carr Ave.		katierue516@yahoo.com
Tracy Wiswall	1488 Vinton	248-7847	twiswall@aol.com
Ham Smythe	635 S. Willett	726-6450	ham@premierofmemphis.com

## EX OFFICIO

Steven King (President '11-'12)	1771 Carr	347-3817	sking@bakerdonelson.com
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## Holiday Wreath Hanging Set for November 17

Central Gardens has a warm and welcoming tradition of hanging Holiday Wreaths on our historic style lampposts. This feat takes approximately 25 volunteers for the hanging and take down. If you can volunteer to work about an hour on Saturday, Nov. 17 and Saturday, Jan. 5 the tradition can continue. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the Frick home, 1597 Carr Ave. Please contact Brent Kernodle at (901) 272-0797 for more information and to sign up.

## Central Gardeners Yard of the Month

Below are a few recipients of the "Yard of the Month" for summer.

- Debbie and Richard Reinach, 1971 Vinton
- Dave and Adrienne Gallagher, 1759 Peabody
- George and Joy Wills, 1759 York Ave.



*September "Yard of the Month," Gallagher home, 1759 Peabody*

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 HOME TOUR SPONSORS!

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## SAVE THE DATE

**Nov. 17:** Wreath-hanging, 9 a.m. meeting at Frick's alley, 1597 Carr. Contact Brent Kernodle at (901) 272-0797 to sign up.

**Dec. 1:** St. Jude Marathon, "Cheer Central Station" along Peabody around 8-9 a.m. Contact Gayle Christensen at (901) 276-4899 to help.

**Jan. 5:** Wreath-takedown, 9 a.m. meeting at Frick's alley, 1597 Carr. Contact Brent Kernodle at (901) 272-0797 to sign up.



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Memphis, TN 38104

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

¥ SpringFest is in the planning phases.

Please contact Tracy Wiswall at (901) 248-7847 or [twiswall@aol.com](mailto:twiswall@aol.com) to help.

- Landmarks Committee is seeking a few new members. If interested, Please contact Christina Hall at [chall1566@gmail.com](mailto:chall1566@gmail.com).

## Central Gardens Home Sale Information

ADDRESS	SPECS	STYLE	AGE	SALE PRICE	\$ PER SF
<b>AUGUST</b>					
760 S.McLean	3 BR, 1 BA	Traditional	c. 1957	\$132,000.00	\$114.00
565 LeMaster	2 BR, 1 BA	Bungalow	c. 1914	\$147,500.00	\$82.00
1765 Eastmoreland	4 BR, 3 BA	Bungalow	c. 1920	\$187,000.00	\$88.00
1869 York	4 BR, 3 BA	Traditional	c. 1900	\$190,000.00	\$135.00
1766 Harbert	4 BR, 2.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1921	\$242,500.00	\$78.00
1751 Carr	3 BR, 2.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1924	\$355,000.00	\$144.00
549 Belvedere	4 BR, 2.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1920	\$586,000.00	\$108.00
644 Belvedere	4 BR, 1 BA	Traditional	c. 1910	\$887,500.00	\$139.00
1508 Goodbar	5 BR, 5.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1924	\$895,000.00	\$173.00
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
642 Melrose	3 BR, 3 BA	Traditional	c. 1912	\$195,000.00	\$51.00
1647 York	4 BR, 2 BA	Bungalow	c. 1922	\$180,000.00	\$60.00

Information deemed reliable but not warranted.

Leigh Martin, Central Gardens resident, 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 13 years. If you need to contact Leigh, please call 901.351.3877 or email her at [martlei@aol.com](mailto:martlei@aol.com).

# Central Gardens' Little Free Library is the First in Memphis Devoted to Children



*Stop by to see one of Central Gardens' Little Free Libraries at 1628 Carr.*

If you are a book lover and like to walk in Central Gardens, then you might have noticed the new Little Free Library at 1628 Carr. These small boxes with free books inside that you just borrow without a card are popping up all over the country. But, this one on Carr is the first one in Central Gardens and the first one in Memphis that is devoted to children. Jan Willis and Laura Lemly collaborated on the project. It was installed in August and the response to the library from children, parents, and grandparents has been wonderful. Laura said, "the best thing, other than the fact that it promotes literacy, is the sense of community that it has facilitated! We have met so many neighborhood children and I suspect that patrons have met each other while 'shopping' for a good book."

There are Little Free Libraries on the 1700 block on Carr and on Central. [Littlefreelibrary.org](http://Littlefreelibrary.org), whose mission is to promote literacy and the love of reading will give you everything you need to know should you decide to build and manage your own Little Free Library. The website offers tips and even a kit for building a little library.



**Central Gardens Association**  
**P. O. Box 41382**  
**Memphis, Tennessee 38174-1382**

#### Newsletter Staff

**Editor:** Barbara Sysak, [barbsysak@gmail.com](mailto:barbsysak@gmail.com)

**Co Editor:** Brian Johnson,  
[brianjohnson007@gmail.com](mailto:brianjohnson007@gmail.com)

**Designer:** Kathy Kelley, K Design  
[kkelley7@comcast.net](mailto:kkelley7@comcast.net)

#### Columnists:

Christina Hall, [chall1566@gmail.com](mailto:chall1566@gmail.com)

Marsha Hayes, [haymarsha@gmail.com](mailto:haymarsha@gmail.com)

Kay Price, [dkayprice@comcast.net](mailto:dkayprice@comcast.net)

Liz Willis, [lizwillis@comcast.net](mailto:lizwillis@comcast.net)

Nancy Willis, [NCW1895@aol.com](mailto:NCW1895@aol.com)

Diane Youree, [dyouree2@bellsouth.net](mailto:dyouree2@bellsouth.net)

Leigh Martin, [marlei@aol.com](mailto:marlei@aol.com)

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