

27th Annual  
**Mt. Lebanon Garden Tour**



**more green thumbs**

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LIBRARY

**Sunday, July 9, 2017**  
11 am - 4 pm

**Tickets \$15 in advance,  
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**“Stardust Swing;  
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**Saturday, July 8, 2017**  
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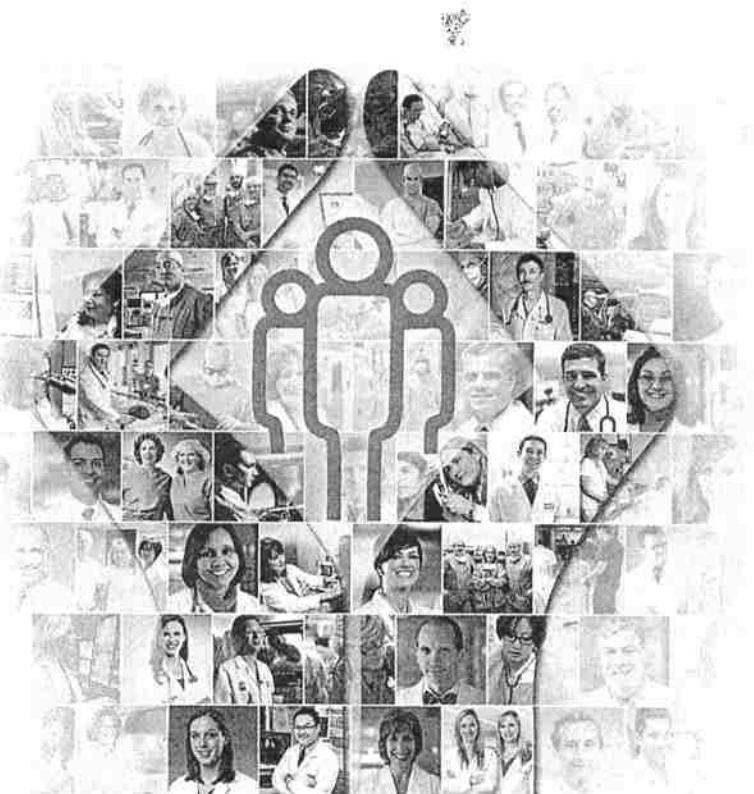
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July 9, 2017

Dear Library Friends,

Welcome to the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour! We are confident that you will be delighted by the nine private gardens on this year's tour. We are grateful to the gardeners for graciously opening their outdoor spaces to us and taking the time to share their labors of love. As you stroll through the varied gardens we hope that you not only renew your enthusiasm for gardening, but also glean ideas for your own landscapes. Please feel free to ask questions; the owners will be happy to share their knowledge. Be sure to visit the lower level of the library today, where tour activities include the annual plant sale, free consultations with gardening experts, and special promotional offers at The Book Cellar, the library's used bookshop.

As the owners have carefully tended their gardens, so have the residents of Mt. Lebanon nurtured the library. Proceeds from the previous twenty-six Garden Tours helped remodel the library and the outdoor courtyard, and have provided thousands of books, audio-visual materials, magazines, and programs for patrons of all ages. This year's proceeds will be used for books, educational DVDs, electronic resources, programs, and improvements to the building.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the Garden Tour Committee and to the many volunteers whose efforts are critical to the success of the tour. We also thank the advertisers, gardening experts, and all the sponsors of the Garden Tour. Their support provides that margin of excellence to our community library. Please let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

Finally, we thank you for supporting the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour. Your donation will help ensure continued excellence in our library's services.

Enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

David McKibben  
Garden Tour Coordinator

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## • THE OWNERS DESCRIBE THEIR GARDENS •



*Garden of*

**Dave & Noelle Conover**  
16 Mt Lebanon Blvd.

Our home is one of the many typical stone homes that line the Washington Road corridor from Cochran Road to the Galleria, built after the Liberty Tubes opened

in the 1920s. The north-facing front has the traditional Mt Lebanon hardscape – rhododendron, azaleas, dogwoods and other woody shrubs. Soil from the Governor's driveway construction was mounded to create a spot for annuals that greet the many passers-by on our street. While busy (sorry – no parking on the street so please park on nearby Roycroft!), the house sits on a double lot with an expansive back yard that is well away from the clamor of the street and neighboring Washington Road, a true hidden treasure.

The yard is divided into many distinct areas, much like the inside of a home. Abutting the length of the two additions added over the years – a family room and a sunroom – is a dining patio, framed by a natural boulder wall planted with a variety of shrubs, small trees and perennials to provide year round interest. In one corner is a large Southern Magnolia offering a fragrant wafting in June. Around the side of the house along the private lane is a narrow woodland setting with seating and a pond that is perfect for quiet reflection in the shade.

The patio steps lead up to a grassy area where many a ball was tossed or kicked over the years but is now is the dog's domain! Where the swing set once was has been transformed into a seating area with a fire pit that the teens now enjoy. A recently added pergola sets off the area while providing not only shade but also support for the grapes planted this spring.

Beyond the grass, an annual bed lines the pool fence providing a riot of color all summer long. The fence not only encloses the pool area but also the vegetable garden providing an additional layer of protection from the neighborhood deer. The pool has a stone wall on two sides providing yet another area for annual flowers.

The "back forty" is grassy area that fronts a naturalized wooded area running the length of the back property line.

We hope you enjoy the snapshot of our current design – one that is constantly changing and evolving – like nature itself!



## *Garden of*

### Gerri & Steve Delaney 737 Rockwood Avenue

Welcome to 737 Rockwood Avenue! Our farmhouse, circa 1913, has seen many changes since we purchased the property in 1987. The gardens are mature, but ever

evolving. I would describe the space as a natural English style garden, with the majority of the landscape being native to southwestern PA. Thus, we are able to enjoy their growth, and beauty, on an almost year round basis. Even in the winter months, the Hellebores pops up through the snow. I make sure to prune the Forsythia during those frigid months; then, we are able to have large, full vases of vibrant, blooming yellow flowers, throughout the gloomy early winter months.

The pool and fence were added in 1999, which has undoubtedly given us the ability to enjoy our space without sharing it with the growing population of deer during the spring and summer months. Because this area is seasonal, I plant annuals, herbs, and many non-native plants in large pots, so that I can easily bring them inside during winter. You will notice a fig tree from Greece, and an olive tree I brought back from Italy; as well as many other unique varieties of plants and flowers tucked in among the landscape. There are many incredible plant species planted throughout the entire yard to enjoy. Many of these species also help to attract birds, butterflies and bees including: Agapanthus, Ageratum, Aster, Astible, Ajuga, Baptisia, Bachelor Button, Butterfly Bushes, Chives, Coreopsis, Clematis, Day Lilies, Euphorbia, Fever Few, Geranium, Hosta, Hydrangea- oak leaf, Iris, Lavender, Lily of the Valley, Malva, Primrose, Peony, Oregano, Rudbeckia, Shasta Daisy, Russian Sage, Salvia, Sedum, Viola, Vinca, Yarrow, and many more.

I allow my perennials to reseed themselves, naturally, which adds to the constant evolution of the garden. I design around their growth patterns, which also enables the garden to have continuity in regard to colors, sizes, and shapes. Our pool area is truly the piece de resistance of the summer months.

There are two areas to the left of the pool, which I use for experimentation. Two years ago, after one of our most frigid cold snaps, I lost two very beautiful Leland Cypress trees. After removing them, I was left with two separate garden bed areas, where I encourage natural growth. This is a constant reminder that nature is sharing her beauty with us, and we should never take that fact for granted.

Please relax and enjoy our piece of backyard paradise.



## *Garden of*

### Kerry & Bill Boehner 811 Rockwood Avenue

Our home was originally constructed by Peter Mink in the 19th century, and is recognized by the Mt. Lebanon Historical Society as the Peter Mink House (circa

1860.) The original farmhouse had four rooms each containing a fireplace, and Peter later added a second floor, including three upstairs bedrooms. In 1919, the maternal grandparents of Donald Seymour purchased the home and it stayed in the Seymour family for four generations.

Don and Mary Seymour lived here from 1990 to 2011, and multiple upgrades and additions were par for the course. In 1991, they were runner-up in Mt. Lebanon's annual home improvement contest, and this house was on the Mt. Lebanon Garden Tour years ago (showing off Mary's magnificently manicured grounds.) We purchased the home in May 2011, and we have the honor of being the current owners. While Mary Seymour was a talented horticulturist, we are not the sophisticated gardeners like our predecessors.

Since 2011, we have made numerous changes to the grounds, and the most significant was the transformation of the backyard into our own personal resort (including rock gardens, custom pool and waterfall, as well as an outdoor pavilion and fireplace.) Throughout this transformation, we have had to relocate plants and shrubs, and we have taken great care to save (as much as possible) during the construction phases. As you look around the pool, you'll notice both new and transported species that we've re-planted and nourished back to life.

For maximum enjoyment of the property, please enter the side gate to the left of the garage into the pool area. Walk around the pool, go up the steps at the far end and look back, or just hang out and enjoy the sounds of the waterfall. If you're up for a walk, there's a trail between our property and the row of apartments behind the sport court. Go right on this trail and walk through the woods all the way to the St. Anne's Cemetery. That is all of our property, as 811 Rockwood sits on 2.5 acres.

Thank you for visiting – we hope you enjoy!



## *Garden of*

### Barbara & Ed Ivanka 200 Inglewood Drive

This little house is one of the smallest in Mt Lebanon. We moved in 2015, inspired by the freedoms a smaller home can provide, and the possibilities of the unusual,

four-level backyard. There was very little in the way of plant life or decoration when we first moved in. The centerpiece to the backyard is a 30-foot mosaic, which we created over the summer of 2016. The pieces of tile, stained glass, mirror, broken pottery and beads populate the risers on the front of a concrete staircase. The mosaic depicts an undersea scene under a bright sun, a reminder of our love of scuba diving and the 20 years we spent in Florida before moving to this wonderful area. At the top of the mosaic stairs is a pergola graced by a hanging mosaic.

A variety of perennials populate all the levels; rhododendron, coreopsis, magic carpet spirea, peony, rose of sharon, pink guara, starshine aster, lanium, floribunda rose, crocosmia lucifer and a number of junipers and grasses. A pink magnolia tree shades the deck. After so many years in the south, we are delighted by the variety of plants and the long growing season. The garden is an ongoing experiment with color and texture. Starting with daffodils in March, something new is always blooming.

For summer-long color, we love annuals including lobelia, marigold and pansy. We do not employ any landscaping or lawn service, and the gardens serve as a passion for my retired husband, and a retreat for both of us.

After many years in Florida, these New York City natives are grateful to have settled in the amazing Pittsburgh area, and are pleased to welcome our community to our home.



## *Garden of*

### Donna & Cal Hastings 54 Lebanon Hills Drive

I am a retired interior designer that specialized in commercial space planning with a love for good balance and proper scale in interior design. Our motto at the Art

Institute was "Form before Function" as we knew it had to function for the client but must look beautiful for the designer. This did not go over well with my husband who owned an engineering company and insisted that function comes first. Neither one of us specialized in outdoor plants or knew their proper names. I appreciated beauty in nature and would spend time outdoors if insects were not attacking me.

But this all changed when we acquired two lovable boxer puppies who loved playing in the back yard. They would romp and wrestle in the grass for hours. It soon became apparent that mud holes and bare spaces were taking over the yard. A solution was needed when Dad forbade the dogs their much loved play time. So to the outdoors I went with measuring tape and scale paper to space plan my "outdoor room". What little grass remained was removed and a serpentine path was drawn up. I decided on four islands to create the paths and hoped the dogs would enjoy the chase. I planted, through trial and error, plants and bushes that would fare well in the shade as we have many trees. There remained one corner of the yard that was larger than I wanted so in time we installed a fish pond hoping the dogs would not prefer swimming or worse, fishing for koi.

Being extremely intelligent boxers the dogs soon realized they could run and chase but not wrestle, so doggie Brutus discovered he could catch his brother Caesar by jumping over the islands and attack the unsuspecting runner. After a few years and some additions to the islands I added stone borders and containers for annual flowers.

When my beloved boxers went to doggie heaven a labradoodle and Bolognese filled the empty space in my heart. Being much calmer dogs, they stroll around the path and lift their legs in approval. Although they both once tried swimming in the pond, they soon realized that wasn't much fun for them or the fish.

Although my garden was designed by an outdoor novice, I hope visitors find satisfaction in viewing my "space for dogs"

Donna Hastings



## *Garden of*

### Greg & Melissa Volitich 346 Parkway Drive

Having purchased our home in 2000, we spent a year rehabbing the interior (It was in dire need of some TLC- it was vacant for nearly 3 years). Soon after, we started the

many phases of rehabbing the outside. The front yard was overgrown with evergreens, the back yard with trees. In the back, the slope made the yard largely unusable. We started by removing 17 trees. We then built a garage and the large retaining wall to create a level space. We had four tri-axel dumps of gravel delivered, all of which we moved the old-fashioned way-with a wheelbarrow and 5-gallon buckets. With a little occasional help from a few friends and family, it was soon complete.

Our early attempts at landscaping did not last very long. We had no plan, just bought pieces plants here and there. Eventually, my wife and I decided to engage our friend Ron Block to design a plan. The plan included plants that were well-suited to the climate in Western PA. We agreed to abide by his plan and did all the work ourselves.

For the space between the garage and house we added a retaining wall, a pond-less waterfall and a fountain. We added 2 London Plane Trees to flank the water feature and to provide shade for the patio and deck. We used some of the plants we had purchased earlier to fill in the space and added some new ones. A Katsura Tree anchors one corner of the driveway, and Knock-Out roses dress up the back edge.

The front yard was a bit tougher; we really wanted to add some charm. Again, having a good plan was priceless. Here we have an 'Orido Nishiki' Japanese Maple as a feature on one side and a Stewartia pseudocamellia on the other. Climbing Hydrangea on the chimney (a piece of the old wrought iron fence we found in the back yard is the trellis), 'Green Gem' Boxwoods, 'Little Henry' Itea, Dwarf Fothergilla, Azalea, Yews, 'Blue Girl' Holly, 'Kasan' Pyracantha, and 'Shannon' Kerria make up the shrubs. Perennials (Hellebores, Day Lilies, Iris, Hostas) were planned to rotate focus in the garden. We've had a few setbacks (deer loved the young green shoots on the yews) setting them back a few years. Outside of that, we couldn't be happier with the outcome.

Melissa & Greg



## *Garden of*

### Ina Block & Don Riefner 804 Hillaire Drive

Our garden was originally on the Mt. Lebanon Garden tour in 2005. A lot has changed since then. The 50- year old pine trees have been replaced by various other

trees, including a Fat Albert Blue Spruce, a Kwanzan Cherry, a Japanese Maple and a Japanese Fringe Tree. Our garden has many nooks and crannies. You never know what you might find when you turn a corner. There are many Hosta in the shady areas, along with coral bells, and tiarella and there are more than 6 clematis varieties growing up fences or trellises. My garden is filled with whimsical metal sculptures and ceramic creatures, collected from art shows, places I have traveled to, made in my kiln or gifted to me by friends. Although there are many different creatures in my garden, there are more than 30 ceramic or metal frogs scattered about, peeking through leaves, almost ready to jump out at you. A hand-built cookie jar, once in my kitchen, now hosts a pot full of vines and annuals. I try to keep a map of my plants so I know what should be coming up in each location. My husband Don and I designed and built the bridge, the trellis, the tool shed and half of a gazebo so we could enjoy the view. Stained glass stepping stones, grace the entrance to the front rock garden, which was designed to look like a wandering brook. As you approach the house, you will note that I am also a "cat person", as evidenced by several faux felines hiding among the flowers. The real ones stay inside the house. We also have learned to accept the many chipmunks and rabbits that live under our deck and the squirrels who scamper through the trees. The cats love to watch them through the sliding glass door. The deer and slugs like to nibble on our Hostas as well as other plants and it is sometimes difficult to keep them at bay. We've given up trying to evict them and try to live harmoniously with all the "creatures" in our garden.



## *Garden of*

### Caasi & Charles Fedel 503 McCully Street

What to say about this garden? Well, first off, nothing will be blooming, except the annuals, it's July after all. I suppose this is where I should be discussing what would be blooming were it a different time of year. Maybe the *Hydrangea paniculata 'Floribunda'* if we're lucky, everything was so early this year, maybe this will be too, unless day length is the trigger, in which case it won't be. Possibly the ever-blooming hydrangeas, but they will be flopping on the ground. I'm always trying to shoehorn in one more hydrangea, so the ground should be covered. There's an idea for ground cover next time someone asks.

We have a lot of native plants on the precipitously steep front hillside, although they do have to fight it out with some entrenched thugs left here by previous owners. The monardas are pretty assertive along with the goldenrod, brown-eyed susans, prairie sun rudbeckias, switchgrass, thimbleweed, spiderwort, dogbane, new jersey tea, ninebark, and itea. Golden ragwort, blue eyed grass, and Canada violet keep the weeds out of the shady spots. The front yard is habitat for bees, butterflies, birds, hopefully not rats. Not everyone understands it's a habitat garden, so I've had to bring some folks up to speed.

The back yard is mostly edibles. A sour cherry tree, loaded right now, but I will have made pies with them by the tour. We recycle a lot around here, the vegetable beds change shape frequently, depending on the shape of limbs we use for edging. It's a small space, but we squeeze a lot of food out of it. Natives are planted back here as well, clethra, pagoda dogwood, woodland sunflower, low sweet blueberry, wood poppy, sweet birch. We pilfered the stump from my neighbor's deceased ash tree for tables and stools, and built a composting fence. Currently building a small catchment pond for rainwater runoff, hopefully it will be done, or may be a muddy mess and a trip hazard.

If nothing is blooming, you can always watch the chickens.



## *Garden of*

### Steve & Deborah Boisvert 330 Questend Avenue

Our garden is, as it has been for forty years, a work in progress. Through changes, two practices remain constant- a commitment to organic methods and the use of recycled/heirloom/gift items and plants. We like to believe that our stewardship of this small plot has increased its health and beauty.

The tiny front yard is designed for easy maintenance. When the township removed a stately but aging oak tree, our pink dogwood experienced a mature "growth spurt," and now provides welcome spring color. It is soon joined by azalea and a white rhododendron. Later, color comes from hydrangea, iris, rudbeckia, daylilies, and a variety of hosta. A tiny herb bed serves as a useful and convenient kitchen garden. The brick patio is made from bricks that originally filled in the strip along the street.

Descending steps from the driveway, you'll notice some plants with sentimental value. The first lilac comes from our daughter-in-law's home town in New Hampshire. Further down, spirea have bloomed reliably for our son's May 10th birthday for decades. That seems to be endangered, however, as they bloom a little earlier every year. Steve's daylily collection, spread throughout the garden, began with generous gifts from family friends.

The symmetrical central bed is planned to be seen from above. Glass block came from first floor windows. The vegetable bed above it has gradually moved uphill as neighboring trees have eliminated some sun. The brick patio above was originally in the center of the yard. Steve plans an experiment for it this summer growing vegetables in straw bales. You'll see how it goes for yourselves!

Lilac and mock orange bushes were here forty years ago. A cherished heirloom rose, supported by a small trellis, came from the garden of Steve's grandmother in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Other gardeners' gifts include daylilies and hosta. A volunteer at Phipps Conservatory, Steve also occasionally receives discarded plants, which this year include delphinium, new to our garden, and snapdragons.

We expect this small spot to continue to provide abundance and beauty. We hope yours will do the same!



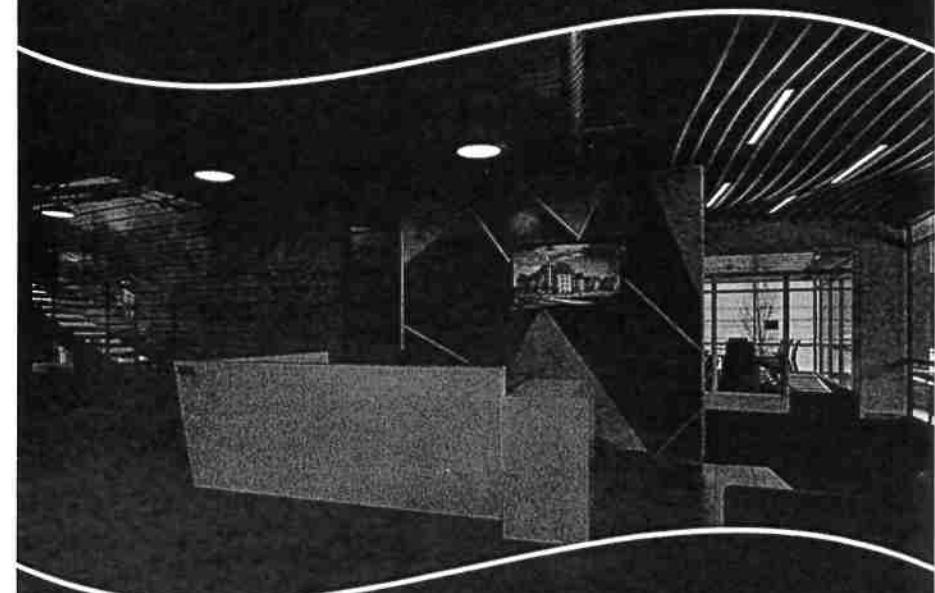
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## DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS 2017

The following directions start from the Library ❤ at 16 Castle Shannon Blvd. (just off Washington Rd.) and guide you to the first garden you choose. There is no particular order that is recommended. The Garden Hosts/Hostesses will have a map at each garden if you need assistance or more details to help you find your next destination.

*While you're shopping at the Library's Annual Plant Sale and The Book Cellar (our used book store), be sure to visit the Library's award-winning courtyard.*

### (1) - 737 Rockwood Avenue – Gerrie & Steve Delaney

Continue past the Library down Castle Shannon Boulevard, past the Post Office and turn right onto Cooke Lane to Mt. Lebanon Boulevard. Turn right and continue up Mt. Lebanon Boulevard to Hoodridge Drive; make a left onto Hoodridge Drive to Rockwood Avenue; make a left onto Rockwood Avenue; the garden will be on the left.

### (2) - 811 Rockwood Avenue – Kelly & Bill Boehner

Continue past the Library down Castle Shannon Boulevard, past the Post Office and turn right onto Cooke Lane to Mt. Lebanon Boulevard; turn right and continue up Mt. Lebanon Boulevard to Hoodridge Drive; make a left onto Hoodridge Drive to Rockwood Avenue; make a left onto Rockwood Avenue; the garden will be on the left.

### (3) - 16 Mt Lebanon Drive – Dave & Noelle Conover

From the library turn left onto Washington Road (about 1 mile) and left turn from the left lane onto Mt. Lebanon Blvd to the garden. Continue past 16 Mt. Lebanon to Roycroft Avenue. Please park on Roycroft Avenue as parking will not be permitted on Mt. Lebanon Boulevard.

### (4) - 200 Inglewood Drive – Barbara & Ed Ivanko

From the library turn left onto Washington Road to Beadling Road; turn right onto Beadling Road to Inglewood Drive; make a left onto Inglewood Drive; the garden will be on the right.

### (5) - 330 Questend Avenue – Steve & Deborah Boisvert

Continue past the library down Castle Shannon Boulevard, to the intersection of Scott and Castle Shannon; continue through the light onto Sunset and left past Pine Cone Park; stay on Sunset to Questend; go right on Questend to the garden.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS 2017

### (6) - 346 Parkway Drive – Greg & Melissa Volitich

From the library turn left onto Washington Road to Jefferson Drive; make a left onto Jefferson Drive and immediate right onto Orchard; continue on Orchard to Parkway; this is a slight left at the Orchard and Parkway intersection; continue on Parkway to the garden.

### (7) - 503 McCully Street – Cassi & Charles Fedel

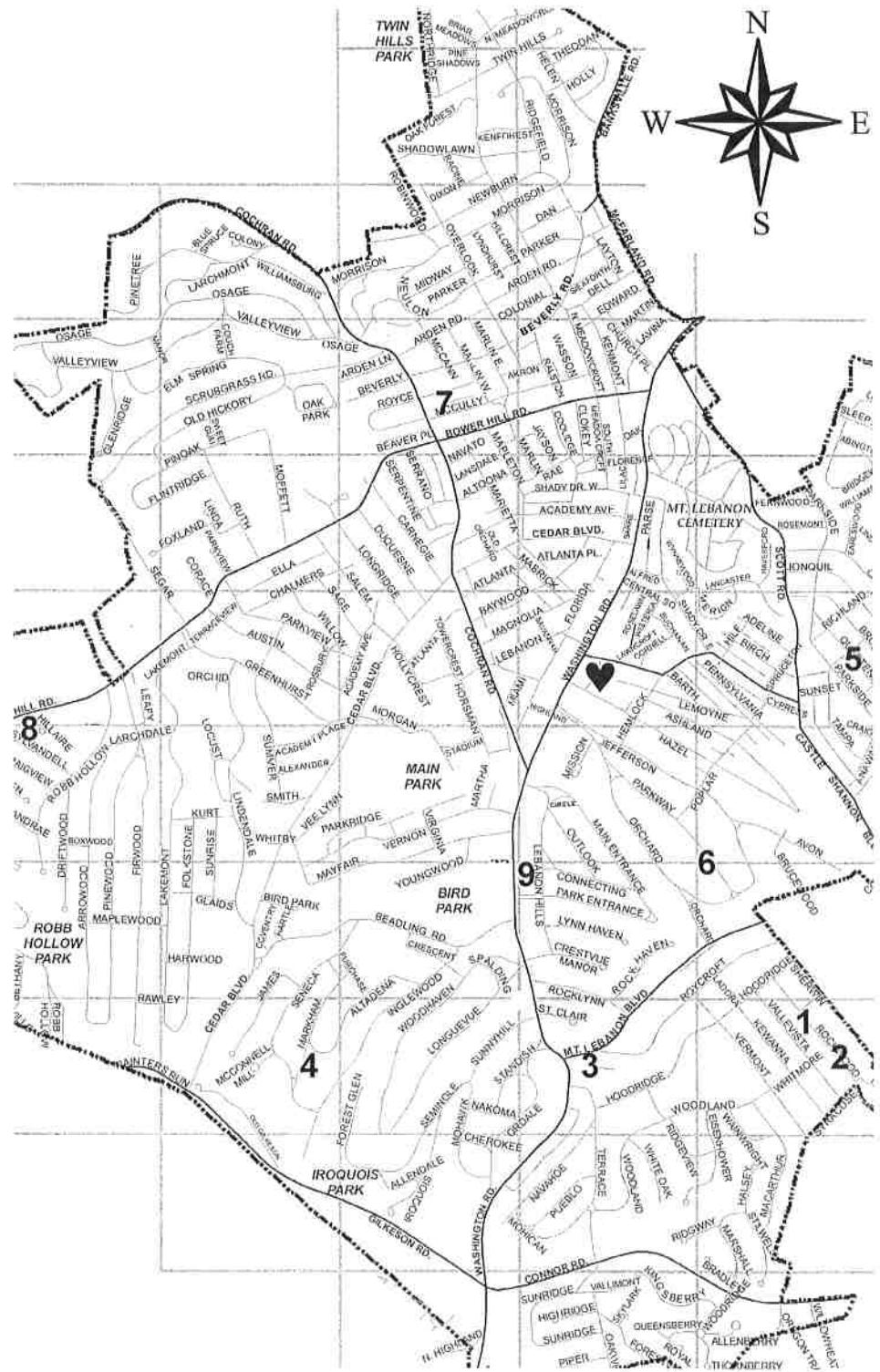
From the library turn left onto Washington Road to Cochran Road; right down Cochran (past the High School) and continue past the intersections with Cedar and Bower Hill Road; McCully is the first right past Bower Hill Road. Go right onto McCully to the garden. The garden will be on the right.

### (8) - 804 Hillaire Drive – Ina Block & Don Riefner

From the library turn left onto Washington Road to Cochran Road; go right on Cochran to Bower Hill; make a left onto Bower Hill and continue past St. Clair Hospital; Hillaire is on the left off Bower Hill right before Temple Emanuel. This is a cul-de-sac.

### (9) - 54 Lebanon Hills Drive – Donna & Cal Hastings

From the library turn left on Washington Road to Main Entrance Drive on your left; go left onto Main Entrance and a right onto Lebanon Hills Drive to the garden. The garden will be on the right.





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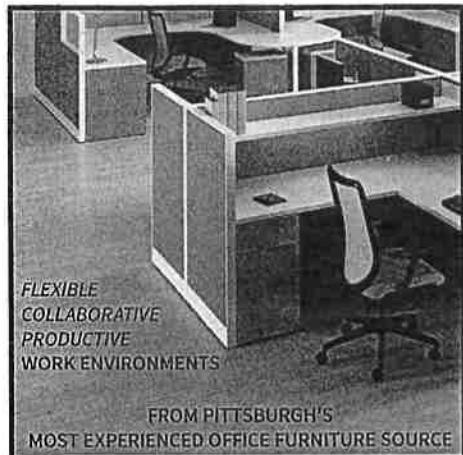
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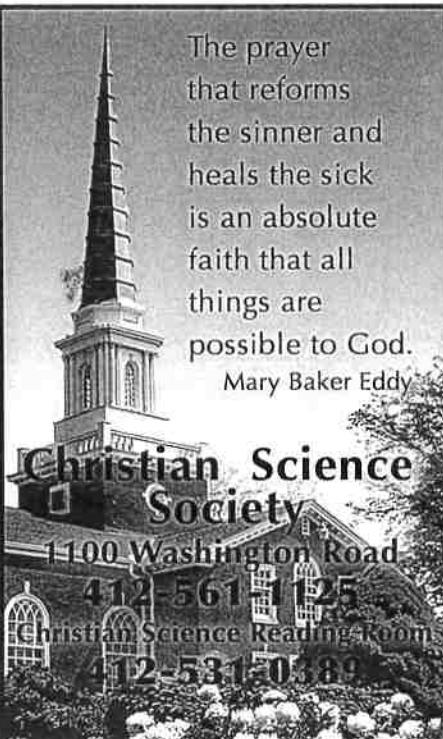
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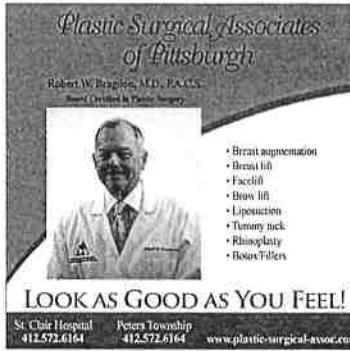
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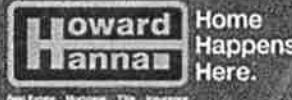
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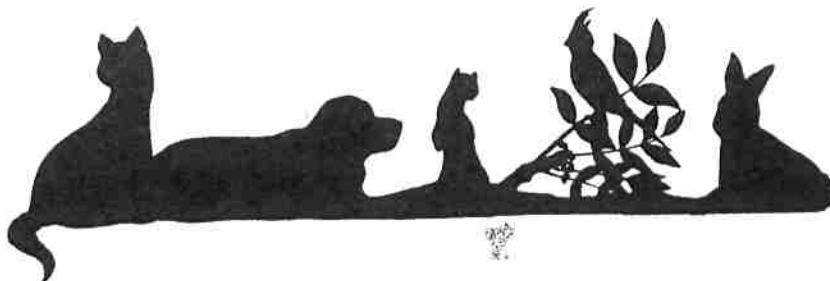
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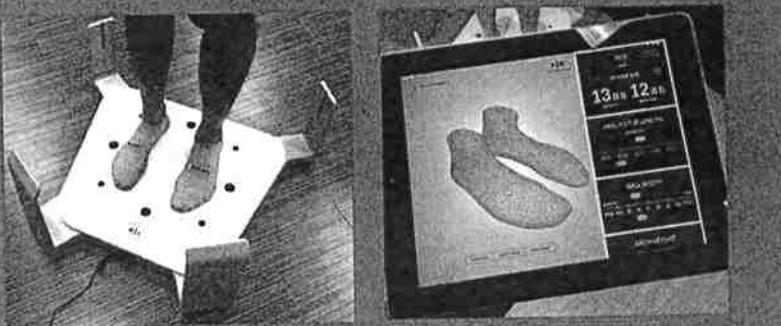
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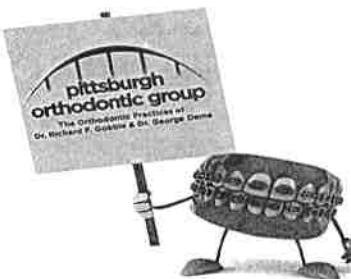
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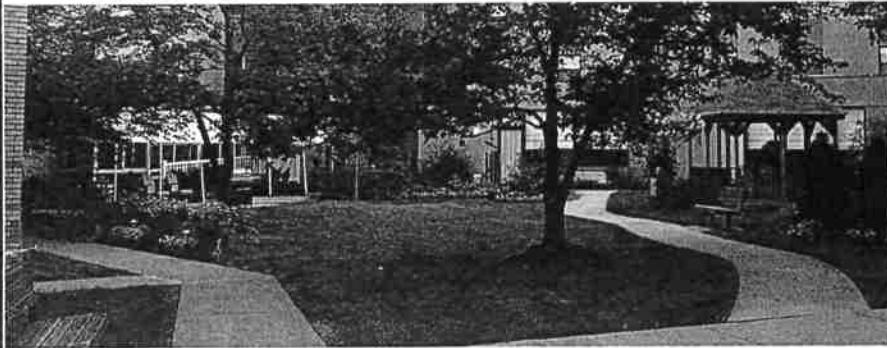
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