

28th Annual
Mt. Lebanon Garden Tour



more green thumbs

Mt. Lebanon
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Sunday, July 8, 2018
11 am - 4 pm

**Tickets \$15 in advance,
\$20 on tour day**

**Stardust Swing;
An Evening in the Garden**

Saturday, July 7, 2018
7 - 9 pm

Tickets \$30

For more information
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The Mt. Lebanon Public Library 2018 Garden Tour

and their mission to provide informational resources, programs, and services for the personal enrichment, education, and enjoyment of all citizens and for the betterment of the community.

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more

MT. LEBANON
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LIBRARY

16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228-2252 • (T) 412-531-1912 (F) 412-531-1161

July 8, 2018

Dear Library Friends,

Welcome to the 28th Annual Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour!

We were so delighted to have our garden included in last year's tour that we returned this year as coordinators. In chairing this event, we scoured the community for the most beautiful landscapes. The result? Seven gardens and two special surprises from the Mt. Lebanon Arboretum and the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy. We hope that as you stroll through the many different gardens and landscapes you'll find inspiration for your own greenspace. And don't hesitate to ask the owners about the plants or for advice!

New this year are food trucks in the library parking lot, including Bella Christie Sweet Boutique (the name says it all). The plant sale returns along with the gardening experts ready to provide free consultations. The Book Cellar Used Book Store, on the library's lower level, is offering some special promotional deals as well.

As with the previous 27 Garden Tours, the library will use the proceeds for programming, improvements to the building, and for books, audio-visual materials, educational DVD's, and electronic resources.

We wish to thank the gardeners for graciously sharing their gardens with us (and you!), the Garden Tour Committee for their hours of work, the volunteers whose efforts make each tour a success, the advertisers, gardening experts, and the tour sponsors.

Last—but certainly not least—we thank you for supporting the 28th Annual Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour. Your support ensures Mt. Lebanon Public Library will continue to provide excellent services for our community, both now and in the future.

Sincerely,



Noelle and David Conover

Garden Tour Co-Chairs

Special Thanks to...

Our Gardeners

Rob & Becky Henninger
Leslie & Dave Hughes
Anna Roman & George Michalopoulos
Barbara & William Sabourin
Mary Starusko
Nancy & Michael Weismann
The Mt. Lebanon Arboretum
The Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy
The Mt. Lebanon Public Library volunteer gardeners



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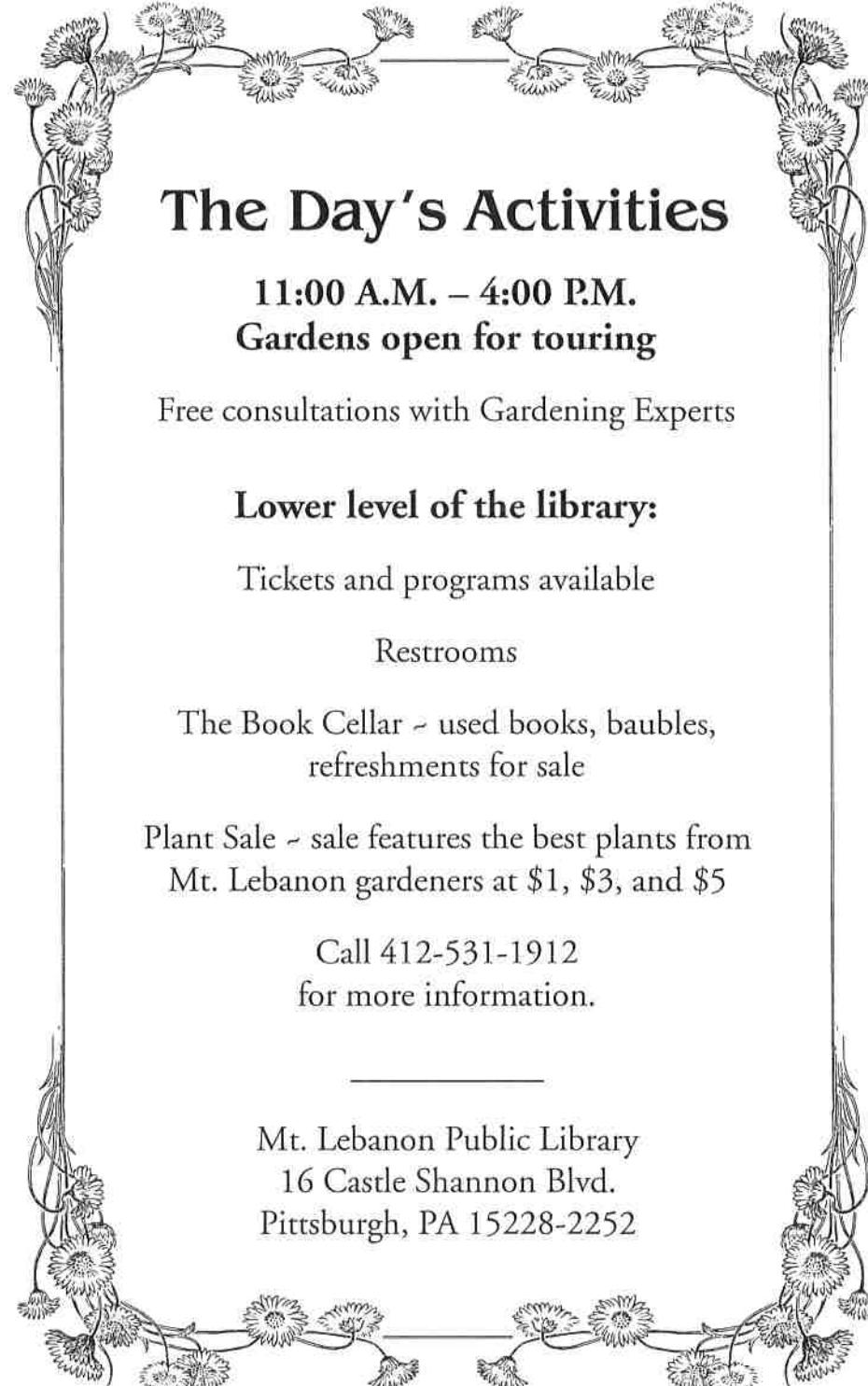
Garden Tour & Stardust Swing Committees

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Noelle and David Conover, Garden Tour Co-chairs
Garden Tour Committee Members:
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Marina Nielsen
Stardust Swing Committee
Robyn Vittek, MA Jackson, Marina Nielsen

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The Day's Activities

**11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Gardens open for touring**

Free consultations with Gardening Experts

Lower level of the library:

Tickets and programs available

Restrooms

The Book Cellar ~ used books, baubles,
refreshments for sale

Plant Sale ~ sale features the best plants from
Mt. Lebanon gardeners at \$1, \$3, and \$5

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• THE OWNERS DESCRIBE THEIR GARDENS •



Mt. Lebanon Public Library Courtyard and Gardens

Mt. Lebanon Library's gardens lend grace and beauty to one of the most popular meeting places in Mt. Lebanon. The gardens began in 1999, when a group of volunteers began designing and installing the plants and hardscapes. The gardens opened to the public the following year.

The volunteer gardeners who continue to maintain the gardens have discovered that the care and feeding of the library's greenspaces is a continual learning process. We are fortunate that many volunteers are Master Gardeners and/or have been involved in gardening activities all their lives. They are an experienced, enthusiastic team whose dedication has kept the library gardens attractive and healthy for almost two decades. New gardeners are welcome to join in the fun.

Something is blooming in the garden almost year round. In February/March, as the weather begins to warm, the red and yellow Witch Hazels appear. Ten months later, as winter looms, the colors of the native trees and shrubs—Redbud, White Dogwood, Pagoda Dogwood trees, the Red Twisted Dogwood and American Filbert Shrub, and the Sweet Pepper Bush—blaze forth.

In the Courtyard, a perennial fig tree mixes with herbs (Dill, Parsley, Marjoram, Oregano) and vegetables (Tomatoes, Kale, Eggplant) as dozens of fish dart in and around the pond's water plants (Blue Flag Iris, Rush, Cardinal flower, and Horsetails). A bench with metal frog legs encourages children to sit and watch the movement and giggle with delight.

Mingled among the native plants are a few non-natives that entice pollinators, including butterflies, bees, bumblebees, birds, beetles, and bugs. The milkweed attracts and feeds the endangered monarch butterfly.

Our perennials and trees include Blazing Star, Mt. Laurel, Bonset, Fragrant Clematis, Foamflower, Crimson Trumpet Vine, Wild Indigo, a varied group of shade loving Hostas, and the River Birch and Serviceberry trees.

To enjoy the gardens fully, walk the length of the library along Castle Shannon and then up the driveway to the upper parking lot. Then go inside the library to access the Courtyard.



Garden of
Barbara & William
Sabourin
409 Longridge Drive

We moved to Mt. Lebanon eleven years ago. We were so thrilled when we found a house that had plenty of space for gardening and was a clean slate ready to be planted. Imagine our surprise when we tried to put a shovel into the ground only to have it stopped by the hard clay.

Not giving up and as all good gardeners do we persevered and kept working and amending the soil until we had nice soft beds for our flowers and vegetables. We use French intensive garden methods in our vegetable beds which entail double digging the soil and then mounding it up. This allows the roots to grow deep. It also allows for close planting which keeps the soil shaded and moist and keeps the weeds down. We have many plants that attract bees and butterflies. We also compost and have a worm farm that contributes to the health of our garden.

Three years ago we put in a new patio which provided an opportunity to terrace the garden. As a result we had to dig new beds for the vegetables but we were undaunted because experience taught us how to go about it. The end result is really beautiful and we even have a fountain in one of the beds that has a flower for each of our three grandchildren.

We hope you will come share our garden. It is a truly bright and peaceful place to be.



Garden of
Mary C. Starusko
410 Longridge Drive

My garden is a love story triad between Belgian block, creativity and good old fashioned "do-it-yourself," "get-your-hands-dirty" hard work and fun.

When I purchased my home 18 years ago, I deemed the backyard a complete "write-off disaster" where nothing could be done. How wrong I was! A friend with a lot of vision thought otherwise and suggested that some Belgian block might be a nice way to dress things up. It all flowed from there.

Belgian block can be hard to find and when you do find it, it's expensive. I started out with 25 that I found through the Pennysaver. I placed ads and found 50 here, another 25 there, and eventually found the Belgian block mother lode when I connected with a gentleman who literally dug up East Street on the North Side and had the evidence to prove it -- thousands of the precious, much-sought-after blocks stacked in his backyard. I found Belgian block heaven! I would be buying, hauling and slinging another 1,200. Four years later, the "disaster" garden boasted a patio, raised beds, walkways, garden borders and three vignette areas featuring two fountains and a charming seating area -- all created with Pittsburgh's historical Belgian blocks. Now the backyard garden is the "lady of the manor" and she reigns supreme! Oh, and by the way, there are also plants and flowers! :)

Come, see, enjoy! I'll be sipping a chilled Chardonnay in the backyard while I anxiously await your arrival!



Garden of
Anna & George
Michalopoulos
172 Lancaster Avenue

It is July and you have missed the riot of Daffodils that burst along the beds in early Spring, but although they are gone, so much more is in bloom now.

As you walk up to the front door you will notice Magic Carpet Spirea, on one side of the walkway and Amber Carpet roses and Variegated Liriope on the other. Anna loves to add in many annuals and a mix of perennials to her beds every year as well. The lovely Dragon Lady Hollies on either side of the front window flank Boxwoods, reaching up high, adding interest in the winter. You will see other plants such as Drift Roses, grasses, Little Henry's and Hydrangeas here. If you notice a touch of "Jurassic Park" (make sure to take note of the pot by the garage) that would be due to annuals added in such as Elephant Ears and King Tut, a Papyrus Grass. The garden continues to meander down the right side of the house with a few specimen plants, Arborvitae, Brandywine Viburnum, including irises, Dwarf Butterfly bushes etc.

Once in the back yard, to the left you will walk down a few stairs and mixed colors of drift roses pop with color among boxwoods, little lime hydrangeas, perennials and annuals just added in May. The patio has a cut out just for the Japanese Maple and below it you may even see faeries flitting around in their garden if you are quiet and quick! The water feature, rocking chairs, and potted plants all make this backyard inviting and make you want to sit a while and relax.



Garden of
Nancy and Michael
Weissman
170 Lancaster Avenue

Although we don't have a large front yard we enjoy the hardy red knock out roses, the Japanese Maple with variegated liriope and juniper below. The Weeping Cherry and the annual New Guinea Impatiens are planted below every year. We love our quaint back garden because of its cozy feel. The arborvitae that we planted when we moved in have now matured & give us privacy.

Because of a problem with flooding during strong summer thunderstorms, we installed a decorative stone river across the garden. It was designed to allow the water to flow down the hill during a storm, tying in with our neighbor's stone river, then draining down to a common area in our development. Besides its functionality, our "river" adds a pretty accent to the garden. Each season brings something new. In spring the white and purple Allium and yellow daffodils take center stage and Miss Kim Lilacs give off their lovely scent. In summer, we especially enjoy the beds of pink drift roses, spreading liriope, Japanese Maple and the potted annual pots. By the end of July everything seems to be in full bloom including the little lime Hydrangeas, their large cones turning from pale green to bright white and then with a touch of pink. Later in the season, the ornamental trees begin wearing their autumn colors. By early November we are sad, but know it's time to put away our patio furniture. Gazing through our windows at our garden in winter makes us look forward to our next lovely spring!



Garden of
Leslie and David Hughes
168 Lancaster Avenue



Dave's love of Bamboo for its texture, deer resistance, privacy, and tranquility sets the tone for this yard. The Japanese Maple, Karl Forester grasses, pinky winky, climbing and little lime hydrangeas add textures to the garden.

Snuggled into the plants on the hill the smiling Buddha calls for calmness. With Liatris and caradonna salvia adding a blend of purple, the unusual scarlet color of the carpet roses adds a needed pop of color. Variegated liriope and Chardonnay Pearl Deutzias with their almost-lime color work with the Japanese Forest Grass to fill out this garden. Stones throughout, along with the sweet sound from the small water feature add even more asian influence. Walking around the side of the house with elongated stepping stones, you will see Quickfire hydrangeas, Japanese Painted and ghost ferns, Variegated Sweet Irises, Green Tower and North Star boxwoods and more rocks for design and functionality.

Leslie's love of making pots on the patio and front of house creates a warm welcoming feeling. Walk around to the front and you will see My Monet Sunset Weigelas, north star boxwoods, otto luykens and dicksons gold bellflowers. Connecting to the asian theme sits a goddess with her offerings.



Garden of
Becky and Rob Henninger
118 Youngwood Road

A "storybook heirloom" is how the Henningers' refer to their property nestled on the edge of Bird Park on a private, dead-end street in Mt. Lebanon. Rob was raised in the home which he and Becky were fortunate to purchase and raise their family, in the same idyllic surroundings.

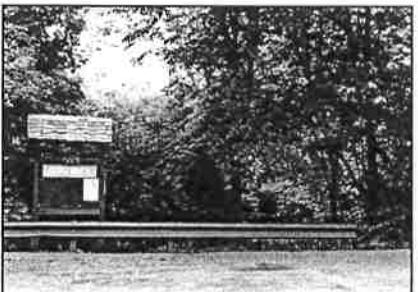
The garden palette includes mostly perennials, with the goal of having all-season color and fragrance. Multiple planting areas allow for both sun and shade varieties.

Blue Magoo Spruce, Forest Pansy and Rising Sun Redbud, Riverbirch, Coral Bark Maple, Weeping Birch, Crape Myrtle, Dwarf Cut leaf Japanese Maple, Ruby Spice Clethra, Henry's Garnet Sweetspire, Fringetree, Bloodgood Japanese Maples and Witchhazel serve to anchor the gardens and provide both summer and winter interest.

Every March, when it seems that winter will never end, the Witch Hazel offers hope of warmer days with frilly orange flowers and light fragrance. The hellebores, snowdrops, daffodils, hyacinth, crocus and grape hyacinth soon follow to usher in spring. A collection of early-mid-summer varieties -- phlox, iris, allium, coneflower, lavender, bee balm, astilbe and geum brighten the garden with vibrant color. Not to be outdone, the mid-late summer beauties salvia, roses, sedum, crocosima, rudbekia, gaillardia, mums, and the always-stunning perennial Hibiscus show off their colors. Interspersed throughout the gardens are annuals such as verbena, sweet potato vine, purple petunia, heliotrope, heavenly blue morning glory and moonflower to provide little pops of color and fragrance as the growing seasons transition.

The water feature and potted plants provide a peaceful focal point on the patio for quiet family evenings or larger celebrations with family and friends. Along with providing a water source for the many different birds, the pond is also a habitat for goldfish, frogs and toads who live among the water-mint, canna, creeping jenny, lobelia, water dock and pitcher plants.

The colorful window boxes on the front porch and side of the house complete the design of this garden retreat.



Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy Bird Park, parking lot on Beadling Road



Visit Bird Park at the Beadling entrance to see the results of the work of beloved, invasive-plant-eating goats hosted by Mt Lebanon Nature Conservancy, a community based, volunteer led non-profit organization. Also, appreciate the outcome of a large-scale invasive shrub control and reforestation project completed as a collaborative effort between MLNC and the Municipality that reclaimed over 6 acres of overgrown and unusable park space. The beautiful replanted area boasts over 40 native trees, including red oak, red and sugar maple, black gum, yellowwood, white pine, sycamore, serviceberry, Kentucky coffeetree and paw-paw. The understory is seeded with native grasses and wildflowers.

Bird Park is also the site of the MLNC School in the Park. For over 30 years, this volunteer-run program has brought all Mt Lebanon 3rd graders to the park for a fun filled and hands-on outdoor learning experience. SIP provides a leadership opportunity for local Mt Lebanon high school juniors as well. Each spring, the MLNC Board and volunteers refresh our community park trails for everyone to enjoy. Learn about nature hikes, park based programs, and volunteer opportunities sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy.



Mt. Lebanon Arboretum, Spalding Circle between Woodhaven Drive and Longuevue Drive

Spalding Circle, a parklet at the intersection of Washington Road, Woodhaven Drive and Longuevue Drive, contains 15 trees in the Mt. Lebanon Arboretum collection. Some of these trees are mature specimens, and others were planted in 2013 as an investment in the community's future appearance.

At this location, garden tour participants can see trees exhibiting different textures, forms and colors. Trees were placed with an eye toward their mature visual impact and with consideration of the growing conditions they prefer, but also to keep space open in the parklet for sledding and games. Some of the tree species are understory trees that stay relatively small and like indirect sunlight, while others prefer full sun and grow to great heights. You'll find spring-bloomers and others more noted for their bright fall colors.

Visit this stop on the 2018 Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour to talk with Parks Advisory Board members and others who can tell you about these 15 terrific trees:

- Douglas Fir
- Japanese Stewartia
- Eastern Red Oak
- "Princeton" American Elm
- Bald Cypress
- Dawn Redwood
- Pin Oak
- Cornelian Cherry Dogwood
- Yellowwood
- "Ivory Silk" Tree Lilac
- Burr Oak (I always spell as Bur Oak, but I guess either is acceptable)
- Common Horsechestnut
- Black Gum
- Kentucky Coffeetree
- "Profusion" Flowering Crabapple

As a bonus, you can learn more about Mt. Lebanon's newly accredited arboretum.

2018 GARDEN TOUR DIRECTIONS

★ Mt. Lebanon Public Library Gardens, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard

Start your day with a visit to our lovely Mt. Lebanon Public Library Gardens, stop by our plant sale, the Friends of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library used bookstore "The Book Cellar" or enjoy a quick snack at one of the food trucks located in our parking lot.

● 409 and 410 Longridge Drive, 15243

Barbara & William Sabourin and Mary Starusko

Turn left onto Castle Shannon Boulevard from the library parking lot, take a left onto Washington Road, turn right onto Cochran Road, turn left onto Cedar Boulevard, then turn right onto Longridge. The gardens are at the end of the street just before you reach Bower Hill Road.

▲ 168 – 172 Lancaster Avenue, 15228

Leslie & Dave Hughes, Nancy & Michael Weismann and Anna & George Michalopoulos

Turn right onto Castle Shannon Boulevard from the library parking lot, turn left onto Shady Drive E., turn right onto Lancaster Avenue. The gardens are on your right at the end of the cul-de-sac.

✚ Mt. Lebanon Arboretum, Spalding Circle, 15228

From the library turn left on Washington Road, continue to Woodhaven Drive turn right. The highlighted trees are in the park on the left.

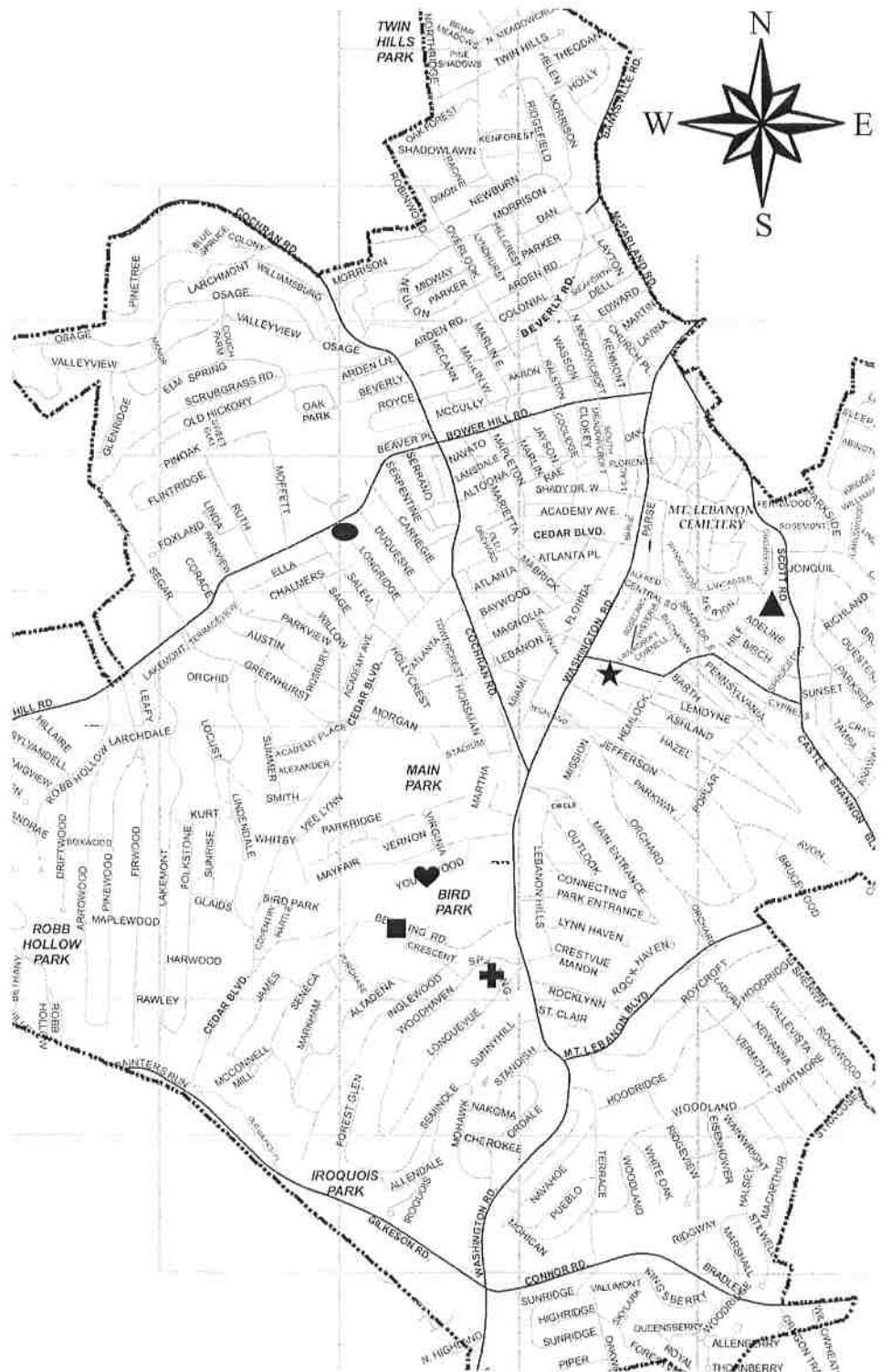
♥ 118 Youngwood Road, 15228

Becky & Rob Henninger

Turn left onto Castle Shannon Boulevard from the library parking lot, turn left onto Washington Road continue to Mayfair Drive, turn right. Please park on Mayfair Drive and walk down Youngwood to the garden. Youngwood Road is the first left. This is a dead end street with no parking available. The garden will be on the right.

■ Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy, Bird Park, Beadling Road Parking Lot

Turn left onto Castle Shannon Boulevard from the library parking lot, turn left onto Washington Road, turn right onto Beadling. Follow Beadling Road to the Bird Park parking lot. The MLNC garden site is about 100 yards east of the parking lot, towards Washington Road. Volunteers will be in the lot to direct you to the area of the park highlighted by the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy.



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Visit our Woodland Garden in Bird Park today.

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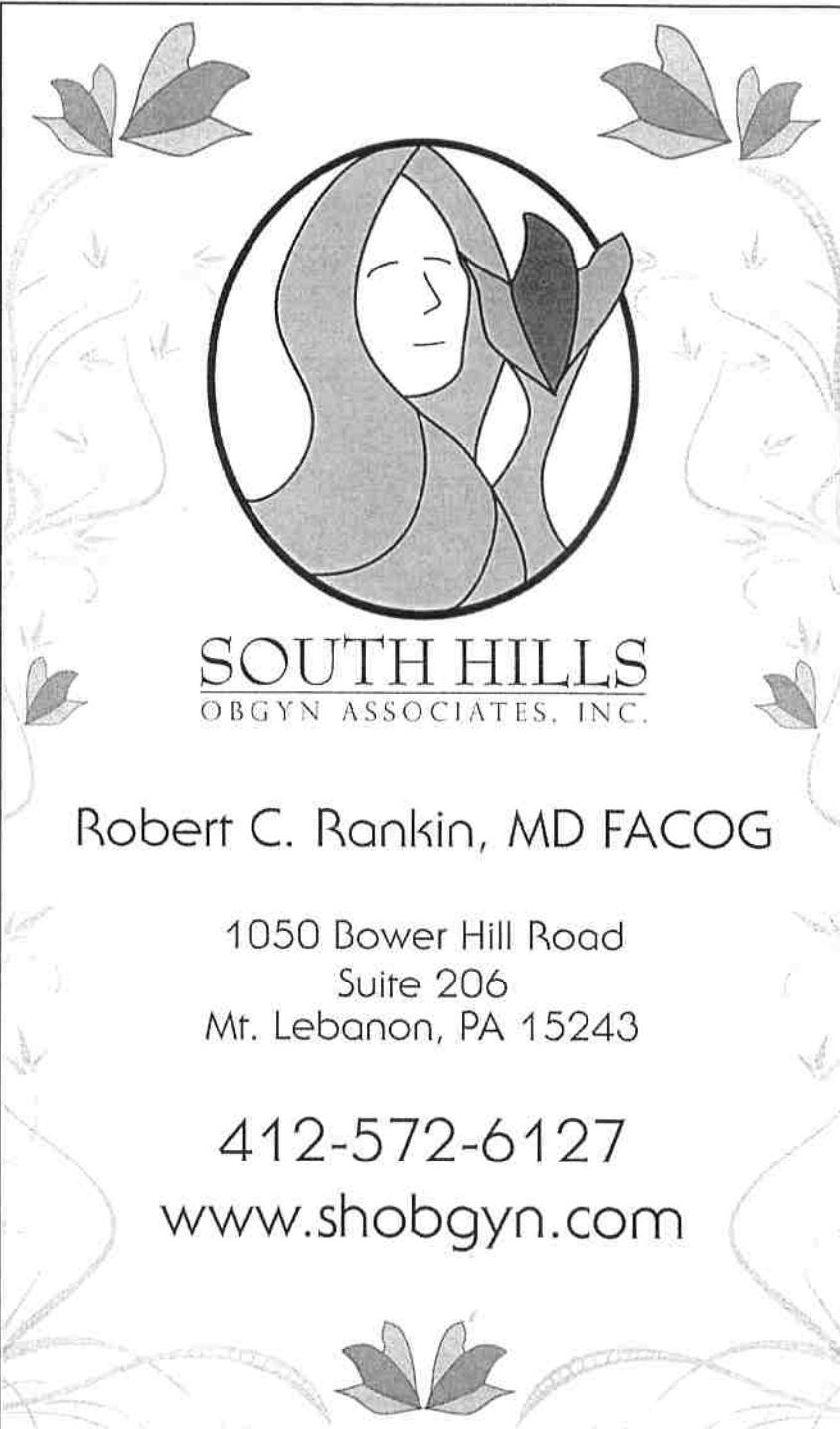
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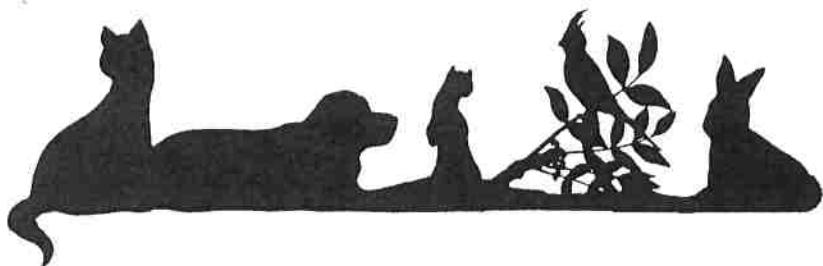
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iConserve Pennsylvania www.iconservepa.org
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Native Plant Database www.wildflower.org/plants
Pennsylvania Flora Project www.paflora.org
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Thanks to funding from Matt's Maker Space—created to honor the memory of Matt Conover, who lost a courageous battle with cancer in 2002—Mt. Lebanon Public Library will be offering a year of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) programs.

Coding Camp

1:30 pm, Monday-Friday, June 25-29
A week-long coding camp for kids going into grades 3-5.

Metalsmithing Artist in Residency Project with Pittsburgh Center for the Arts

3 pm, Monday-Friday, June 29-July 27.
Students entering 8-9 grades

Math Lab

1:30 pm, Monday-Thursday, July 30-August 2.
A four day math camp for rising 5th and 6th graders. Play math games such as 24 and more.

Math Mites Mini Camp

10 am and 1 pm, August 7-9
A three-day math camp for kids entering 2nd-4th grade.

Make a Pinhole Camera

1 pm, Monday, August 13 &

12:30 pm, Tuesday, August 14

For kids going into 6th to 8th grade
Make a pinhole camera, take photos, and develop the film. Includes a field trip to the Manchester Craftsman's Guild.

Raku Pottery with Manchester Craftsman's Guild

9 am, Wednesday, August 15 and
9:30 am, Wednesday, August 16
For kids going into 6th to 8th grade
Build a pottery piece and then trim, glaze, and fire it. Includes a field trip to the Manchester Craftsman's Guild.

Rapid Prototyping with Heinz History Center

Wednesday, August 22
1 pm: Kids in grades 1 and 2.
2:30 pm: Kids in grades 3-5
Design and develop a rapid prototype to solve a historically inspired challenge.

Registration required for all classes.
Check www.mtlebanonlibrary.org
for details and to register.





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**Join us for our 4th annual BHS Senior Health & Wellness Fair
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