

22nd Annual

Mt. Lebanon Public Library

GARDEN TOUR



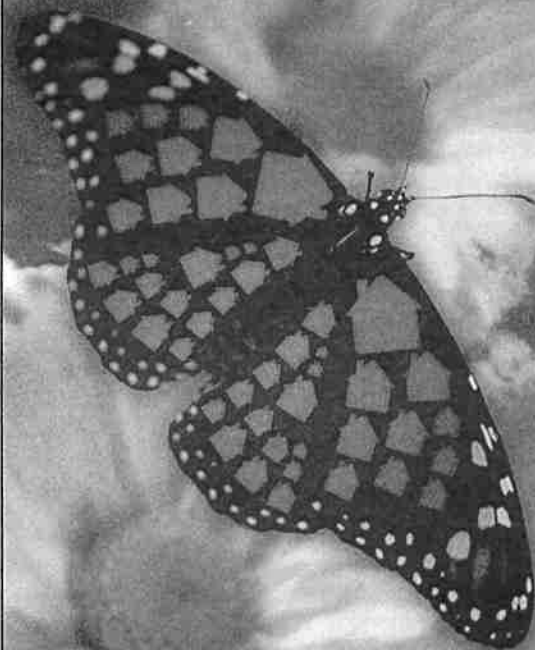
SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2012

12-5 pm

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

FOR INFORMATION,
CALL 412-531-1912

Bringing Beauty, Life & Learning to Mt. Lebanon



Howard Hanna Proudly Supports
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2012 Garden Tour!



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Mt. Lebanon Public Library

July 8, 2012

Dear Library Friends and Tour Goers,

Welcome to the 22nd Annual Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour. The Tour Committee has worked since last summer to make this day the best ever and we are most grateful for your participation. We are deeply indebted to the gardeners who so graciously offered their garden creations to you today. This year's tour features seven beautiful Mt. Lebanon gardens tended by Mt. Lebanon "Gentlemen Gardeners." These men who garden have created unique spaces and their gardens are truly works of art that the community, as well as the owners, can be proud of. We hope that your experience today provides visual pleasure and incentives to incorporate new ideas into your own gardening. Most of the gardeners will be in their gardens. Please feel free to ask questions, as the gardeners are always happy to share their hard-earned knowledge.

Be sure to visit the lower level of the library today, where tour activities will include the annual plant sale, free consultations with gardening experts, and special promotion offers at The Book Cellar, the library's used bookstore.

We thank the dedicated volunteers who have devoted their time and talents, especially the Garden Tour committee, the hosts and hostesses at each garden, and the garden experts. Our souvenir tour book advertisers are vital to the success of the tour. Please let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

The residents of Mt. Lebanon have nurtured their library in many ways. For twenty-two years this tour has been one of those efforts. Funds raised by past Garden Tours helped build the new library and the outdoor courtyard, and have provided books, audio-visual materials, magazines, and programs for patrons of all ages. We plan to use this year's proceeds for books, unabridged audiobooks, educational videos, subscriptions to databases, and programs for children, teens, and adults. We also plan to replace old, worn-out furniture. The library has achieved a margin of excellence because of the generous support by our many donors, sponsors, patrons, and benefactors, as well as all who purchase tickets for the tour. We are confident that your support will benefit the library far into the future.

We thank you all.

Enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

Cynthia K. Richey
Kathleen A. Mays

Cynthia K. Richey
Kathleen A. Mays
Garden Tour Chairs

David McKibben

David McKibben
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The Day's Activities

12:00 Noon – 5:00 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

Call 412-531-1912
for more information.

Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Blvd.
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*A weed is no more than
a flower in disguise.*

- James Russell Lowell

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The Friends is a non-profit, volunteer organization providing support services to the library. Any library patron may join the Friends. We need the enthusiastic response of the entire community to continue to give our library meaningful support. New people and new ideas keep organizations vital.

Your time and input can make a difference—please join today!

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Mt. Lebanon Public Library Recommends Growing Guides for Green Thumbs and Budding Botanists

BOOKS

American Eden: From Monticello to Central Park to our Backyards: What Our Gardens Tell Us About Who We Are | Wade Graham | 712.0973 G71

Artful Garden: Creative Inspiration for Landscape Design | James van Sweden | 712 V35a

Better Homes and Gardens Gardening Made Simple: The Complete Step-by-Step to Gardening | 635 B47

Complete Guide to Organic Lawn Care: Everything You Need to Know Explained Simply | Sandy Baker | 635.0484 B34

Complete Guide to Preserving Your Own Seeds for Your Garden: Everything You Need to Know Explained Simply | Katie A. Murphy | 631.521 M86

Eco-yards: Simple Steps to Earth-friendly Landscapes | Laureen Rama | 635.0484 R35

Edible Front Yard: The Mow-less, Grow-more Plan for a Beautiful, Bountiful Garden | Ivette Soler | 635 S64

Gardening Vertically: 24 Ideas for Creating Your Own Green Walls | Noémie Vialard | 635.048 V51

Grow Cook Eat: A Food Lover's Guide to Vegetable Gardening, Including 50 Recipes, Plus Harvesting and Storage Tips | Willi Galloway | 635 G34

Of Gardens: Selected Essays | Paula Deitz | 635 D43

Pruning & Training | Christopher Brickell | 635.91542 B73

Weatherproofing Your Landscape: A Homeowner's Guide to Protecting and Rescuing Your Plants | Sandra Dark | 712.6 D36

Wicked Bugs: The Louse that Conquered Napoleon's Army and Other Diabolical Insects | Amy Stewart | 632.7 S72

PERIODICALS

American Rose
Better Homes and Gardens
Birds and Bloom
Garden Gate
Gardens Illustrated
Horticulture
Mother Earth News
Organic Gardening

DATABASES, WEBSITES, & ORGANIZATIONS

GreenFile Database www.mtlebanonlibrary.org
National Gardening Association www.garden.org
Garden Club of Allegheny County
www.gcacpgh.org
Pennsylvania Native Plant Society
www.pawildflower.org
Fine Gardening www.finegardening.org



Garden of

Rafael Sciullo

Family Hospice and Palliative Care
50 Moffett Street

The grounds and gardens surrounding Family Hospice and Palliative Care's Center for Compassionate Care in Mt. Lebanon were planned with the remembrance of my time working with native Americans. They taught me the value of the calm, peaceful essence of a garden space—a place to reflect on nature and a sanctuary where families and their loved ones can gather with one another.

The original building was used as a former orphanage tucked in the suburban community of Mt. Lebanon. After the current building's interior was completed, we turned to the exterior grounds in an attempt to maximize the garden potential. The garden was designed using clipped boxwood hedges surrounding old-fashioned favorites such as hydrangeas, butterfly bushes and clethra. Brick and ironwork very much in the colonial style surround the formal entry and courtyard. Formal oaks canopy the entry portico and add to the sense of the gardens by providing shade and feeling of protection. Many of the plantings were chosen for the ample amount of shade throughout the gardens' spaces. You will see many hosta and other plants that thrive with only a spattering of sunshine.

The gardens and grounds are designed with cool, green, tranquil plantings to help this atmosphere achieve a sense of peace and beauty reflecting on all stages of life. The gardens thus supplement our innovative programming, such as massage and pet therapy, expressive art and music, and the Quality of Life Program. The goal of our gardens is to enhance the daily activities of our patients experiencing a life-limiting illness or injury. Among the unique areas are a Serenity Garden, Meditation Garden with a striking fountain, and a Serenity Path and Statuary Garden.

We hope you enjoy your visit to our gardens and have gained a better sense of our mission in Mt. Lebanon and surrounding community.



Garden of

John Polena

853 Foxland Drive

Our foray into landscaping was shaped by where we were in our life – growing children, little money, and a steep hillside.

Our choices were dictated by what we could afford and what could survive four children and a dog. Later, Japanese Maples provided beautiful bark, gorgeous foliage, shade from the baking summer sun. With more shade came varied hosta. We learned that green has many variations – from lively yellow that brighten the darkest corners to deep forest greens that draw you in with great leaf variety playing against each other. Height contrasts were found with miniature pines to towering maple. Winter is highlighted by varied barks and evergreen foliage. Spring is a riot of color from rhododendrons, azaleas, and the emerging leaves. In summer the wonderful shades of green take over punctuated with the blossoms of oak leaf hydrangeas and hostas.

As the children grew they added to the landscape with water gardening. They helped create our first waterfall and pond stocked with fish. The yard was no longer large enough for games so streams were their focus. Other features were designed with a stream flowing from the hillside, splitting in two and then cascading to the pond. Mother Nature brought down a series of major trees in our neighbors' yards and our yard, which has opened up parts of our yard to sunlight and new areas to landscape. What began as a dirt pile for the kids is now a patio with a bench and a Japanese stone basin. We garden as many people decorate. Plants are frequently rearranged. They may not be thriving where they are, they may have outgrown their location or they may compliment another area better. The yard has become a series of rooms with sweeps of grass that lead from one area to another, perfect for quiet contemplation.



Garden of
Chuck Brodbeck
 30 Glen Ridge Lane

My love of gardening began during elementary school when I helped my grandfather work in his vegetable garden. My vegetable garden (on the south side of our house) continues to be a major focus of my gardening.

With a garden that is roughly 12x25 feet, I only grow six tomato plants, two of which are always Sun Gold (or Sun Sugar), my favorite cherry tomato. A suggestion from a worker at Rollier's years ago led to my use of a trellis made of ½ inch electrical conduit and nylon netting, which is anchored in 2 or 3 foot pieces of ¾ inch iron pipes driven into the ground. I use such trellises for sugar snap peas, cucumbers (usually Asiatic) and pole beans. I grow at least eight different types of lettuce/ mesclun/arugula over the course of the growing season. I also grow various types of beets, broccoli, bush beans, carrots, radishes, spinach and Swiss chard. While I grow basil in my vegetable garden, garlic and a variety of herbs are spread throughout the back yard, as well as blueberries and raspberries.

Some years ago I began planting flowers and shrubs to attract birds and butterflies. We later added a small waterfall for that purpose. My coneflowers in particular attract many gold finches. On the other hand, I am constantly trying plants to attract hummingbirds, with only modest success.

I am excited to be growing a fig tree this year that I received from a friend last fall and over-wintered in our house. As a seedling, I do not expect it to bear fruit this year. I am even trying to grow hops this year for a co-worker who is a home brewer.

A bocce court in the far back of the yard was a good replacement for our kids' swing set a number of years ago!

Last, but not least, my love of dahlias will be quite evident as I grow over 30 plants each year. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that any will be in bloom by the time of the garden tour.



Garden of
Kevin Kirkland
 77 Roycroft Avenue

In our garden, my wife selects most of the annuals, but I choose the trees, shrubs and perennials. As a result, the landscaping reflects my likes, interests and quirks.

The front is more formal, with hedges of blue holly and boxwood. I like the bluish tint of new growth on 'Varder Valley' boxwood and false baptisia, the shrub inside the horseshoe-shaped hedge on the left. The two trees by the sidewalk are Chinese fringe tree and weeping pear, whose silver foliage is repeated in English lavender, rue and Blue Mist shrubs. Silver works well with purple, blue, pink and white flowers so I've planted foxglove, cranesbill, delphinium and pink 'New Dawn' climbing roses and white clematis by the portico.

Along the driveway, I planted more 'New Dawn' and purple-pink thornless roses, golden hops and Chinese wisteria that never blooms on old awning frames from Construction Junction. On the other side of the drive, our neighbors let me plant a Japanese red maple in the midst of fragrant hosta and add lamium (the variegated groundcover), Virginia sweetspire, purple oxalis, blue hosta, polka dot plant and variegated Solomon's seal. Most of the hydrangeas were moved from the backyard to save them from deer and to be closer to the hose bib.

The flat portion of the driveway is my beer garden, decorated for Oktoberfest. I made the seating walls from barnstone and planted a horse chestnut tree, a staple of Munich beer gardens. This one is sterile so it doesn't drop buckeyes in your beer. A previous owner built the deck around towering pine and spruce trees. Yes, I know I shouldn't let English ivy grow on them, but I like how it flowers and becomes shrub-like. Every few years, I climb a ladder and cut it back.

As you walk down the steps, you'll see variegated Kousa dogwood trees and two kinds of climbing hydrangea. The trees in the back yard include 'Forest Pansy' redbud, catalpa and Chinese chestnuts. I made the pergola covered in Chinese wisteria that has never bloomed.



Garden of

David Blair

with Marianne Bokan-Blair

60 Longuevue Drive

In moving to Mt. Lebanon in the late '80s, we came to terms with the change from the flat terrain of our mid-west home to the hilly terrain of western-PA. The ease of accessing level beds gave way to the pleasures of planning, planting and nurturing a series of rolling, sometimes steep, gardens. In 1995 we found this home with a level street front but a thirty foot drop in the rear, all in need of renewed landscaping. In an effort to extend the living area to the outside, we added a slate front porch walled with the Pennsylvania stone original to the 80-year-old home and a slate patio surrounding a natural swimming pool in the backyard. The gardens have evolved over the years with a lot of fill to level the back twenty feet to accommodate the pool.

The front porch is tucked under a beautiful river birch that provides ample shade and a narrow garden that combines the height of yarrow, flat sea holly, beardtongue, and veronica with a mix of hellebores, hostas, heather, lamium, lamb's ear and bugbane. The porch is balanced on the left by a simple layout of salvia, Stella d'Oros, a Kousa dogwood and a Japanese maple.

The back gardens are anchored by the natural layout of a pool fed by a stream emerging from the hill. The effect is pleasing and functional. The hillside garden contains weigela, spirea, autumn sedum, and columbine, flanked by a shade garden of ferns and epimedium under a Norwegian maple on one side and sweet woodruff, hydrangeas and hemlocks on the other. The rocky garden that is the stream and waterfall includes irises, clethra, cranesbill, catmint, bleeding hearts, weigela.

By the pool deck are daylilies, heuchera, brunnera, and a flowering pear tree on one end, on the other a flowering pear surrounded by daylilies, oak leaf hydrangeas, lavender, sage, and blueberry bushes connected by liriop, boxwoods and petunias. At yard's edge is our latest venture: a vegetable garden that runs the width of the backyard and includes potatoes, garlic, and raised beds of lettuce, Swiss chard, spinach, carrots, beans, radishes, beets, cilantro, basil and tomatoes.



Garden of

Rob Papke

850 Vermont Avenue

The garden has evolved over the years since my wife and I bought this property in 1995. The level front space was my first major focus. The side beds replace much of the lawn and were planted with perennials with an emphasis on spring bulbs. The rear of the house has a smaller flat area off the back drive but we needed this area for an activity center for my two boys but as the years have gone by this space has evolved into garden plantings.

My favorite time of year is spring but there is interest all year round. For a tour of our spring garden check out our garden videos on *YouTube*, my user name is "MtLeboDad" and the videos are titled "Spring Garden Tour 2011" & "Flower Power." After the spring glory of the tulips and tall globes of the allium (ornamental onion) the summers in our shady spot in Mt. Lebanon offers many varieties of hosta, Japanese Painted ferns and other shady loving plants. Hopefully on tour day we will have some splashy color from the plants—maybe a Red Hot Poker or two (torch lilies native to South Africa). Our invading deer herds may also influence what you see today although I have had much luck deterring them by spreading Irish Spring soap shavings around the garden.

We are actively involved in Earth Day events and proudly fly the original Earth Day Flag in front of our house. Many of the garden ornaments throughout the garden were made from salvaged items that could be transformed into garden art.

You may notice the large bed of large pebbles at the end of our sloping driveway. This was installed as a control for the driveway water runoff and as a bonus provides a nice visual touch and a good planting spot for our decorative grasses. Welcome to our garden and enjoy your tour.



Garden of

Alan London
39 St. Clair Drive

First, a caveat: the paths and steps, especially the ones that start under the apple tree, are uneven, narrow and often slippery. Please watch your step and move slowly.

Since the yard was last on the Library Tour, several new areas have been developed, including a Japanese-style garden (with a waiting bench copied from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden) in the northeast corner and several tree and shrub-lined paths. The front yard plantings have been expanded for both summer and winter interest, with cold-weather-yellow pines 'Louie', a contorted filbert 'Red Majestic', and variegated dogwood 'Summer Fun'. Along the driveway, red osier dogwood 'Midwinter Fire' is nondescript in summer but striking in winter.

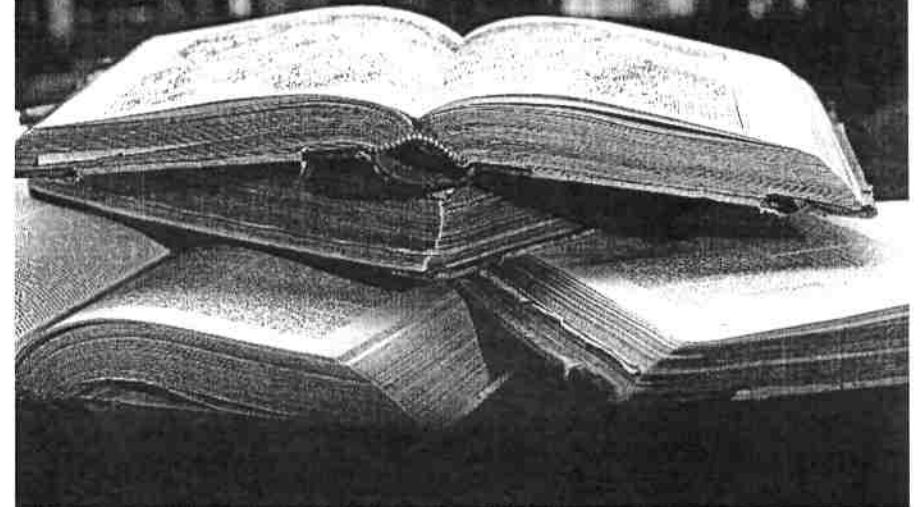
In back, some cultivars of native trees include sweet gum 'Rotundiloba', a weeping river birch 'Summer Cascade' and two pagoda dogwoods, 'Golden Shadows' and 'Argentea'. Other trees to look out for are Persian ironwood 'Vanessa', Manchurian striped maple 'White Tigress', small leafed ginko 'Jade Butterflies', variegated sycamore maple 'Esk Sunset', and blue China-fir (Cunninghamia lanceolata 'Glauc'). The big trees have lived in the yard since long before we moved in—a Chinese chestnut (with a volunteer offspring that's taken hold during our tenure), an English walnut and a lightning-damaged (twice) black locust.

Inspired by the Polenas' artistic landscape, we've added several Japanese maples, including some still in pots. The "sticks and stones silos" hidden in the otherwise unimproved shade on the south side of the yard were inspired by (ok, copied from) an award-winning display by Temple University landscape architecture students at this year's Philadelphia flower show.

Garden thugs are everywhere. Planting variegated Houttuynia cordata was a huge mistake, so was introducing northern sea oats and jumpseed, even though they are native. They've been much harder to control than the dreaded variegated Japanese knotweed. Ostrich fern could be the next to turn into a culprit.

What is more important in a library than anything else —
than everything else — is the fact that it exists.

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH



The attorneys of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. salute the staff and volunteers of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library for keeping open thought alive in our community.

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DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS 2012

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.

● 50 Moffett Street (Family Hospice and Palliative Care)

From the Library, turn right onto Washington Road. Turn left onto Bower Hill Road (0.7 mile) at St. Bernard's Church. Continue across Cochran and turn right on Moffett (1 mile) at the light by Jefferson School.

■ 853 Foxland Drive

From the Library, turn right onto Washington Road. Turn left onto Bower Hill Road at St. Bernard's Church. Continue past Asbury Heights and Jefferson School at Moffett Street. At the next street, turn right on Ruth (1.1 miles). At the stop sign, turn left onto Linda Lane. Turn left onto Foxland Drive. *(This is a cul-de-sac street.)*

▼ 30 Glen Ridge Lane

From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road. Continue on Washington Road to Cochran Road. Turn right on Cochran. Proceed past Beverly to Scrubgrass Road (0.3 mile) on the left. Turn left onto Scrubgrass to Elm Spring Road. Turn right onto Elm Spring (0.5 mile) to the intersection of Valleyview Road. Go left on Valleyview and then left onto Glen Ridge Lane (144 feet). 30 Glen Ridge is on the right (0.1 mile). *(This is a cul-de-sac street. Please park with the traffic flow.)*

◆ 77 Roycroft Avenue

From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road. Continue to Mt. Lebanon Blvd. (1.3 miles) and go left on Mt. Lebanon Blvd. to Roycroft on the right (455 feet; the street goes off to the right and is not a cross street). Go right onto Roycroft to 77 on the left (0.2 mile).

★ 60 Longuevue Drive

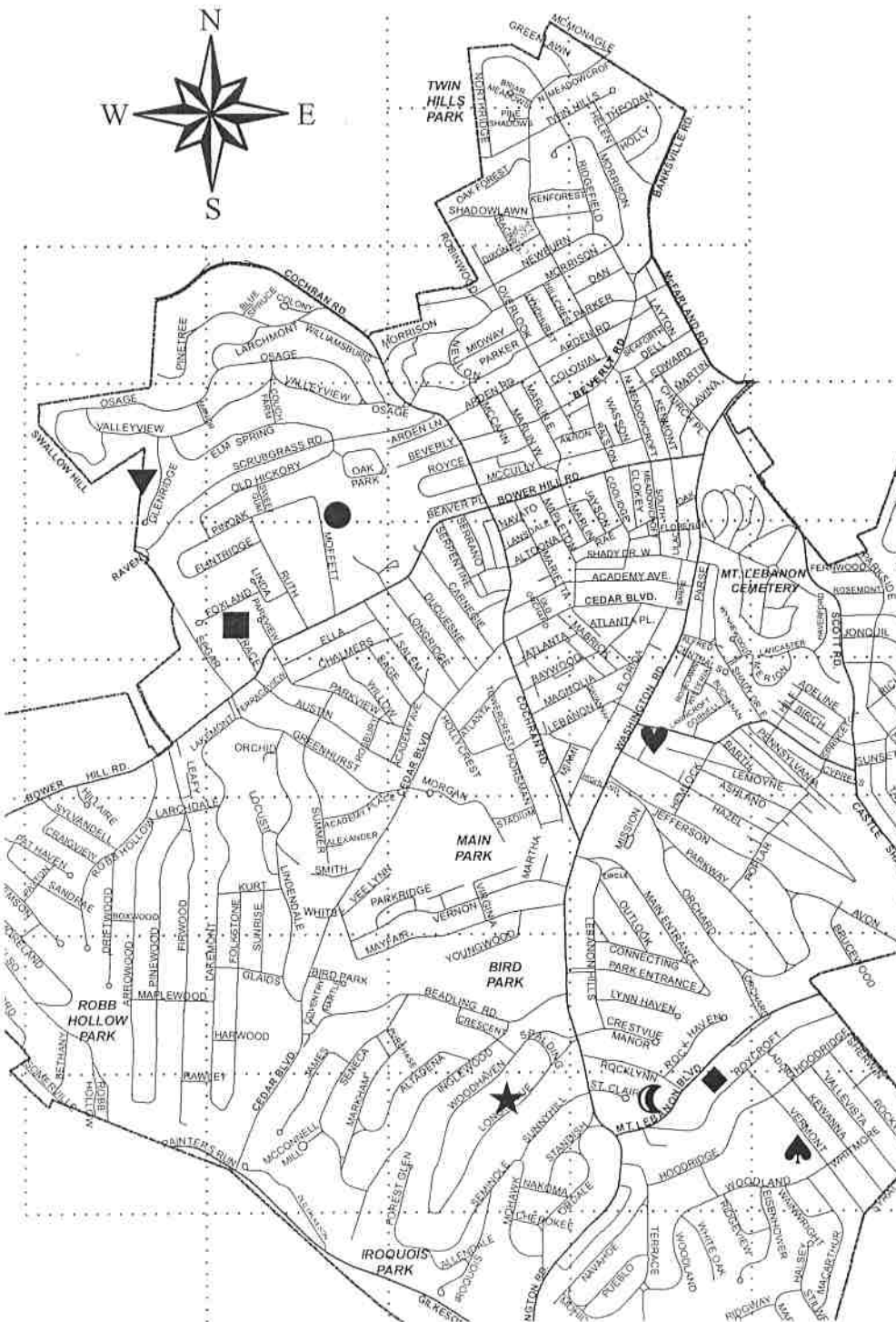
From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road. Continue on Washington Road past Bird Park. At the light go right onto Longuevue Drive (this is the second street of the turn-off) (0.8 mile). 60 Longuevue is 0.2 mile on the right.

♠ 850 Vermont Avenue

From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road. Continue on Washington to the intersection of Mt. Lebanon Blvd. (1.3 miles). Go left on Mt. Lebanon Blvd. to Roycroft Avenue to Vermont Avenue. Turn left on Vernon Avenue, cross Woodland Drive to 850 Vermont on the right. *(Vermont is a dead-end street, turn left at Whitmore to exit.)*

☾ 39 St. Clair Drive

From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road to St. Clair (0.9 miles). Go left onto St. Clair to 39 St. Clair Drive at the end of the street. *(This is a relatively short street and a cul-de-sac. Please park with the traffic flow. Additional parking at Unitarian Church.)*



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Building Community

HDR wishes the Mount Lebanon Public Library great success at this year's 22nd Annual Garden Tour. Thank you for all the hard work you do to provide a great library for our community.

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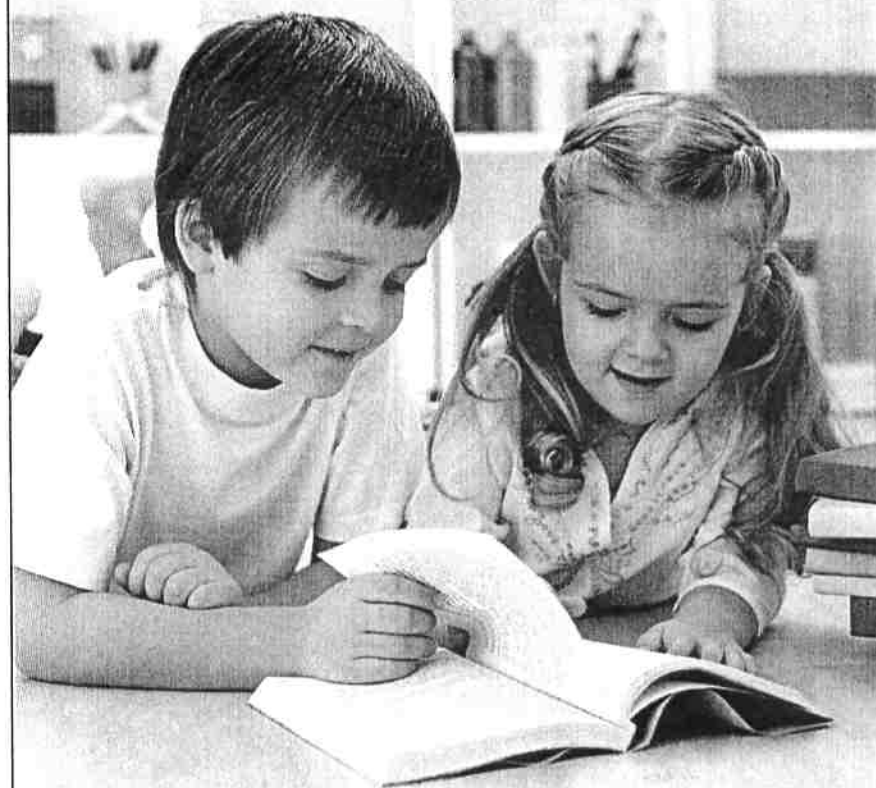
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22nd Annual Garden Tour

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