

# NewsLetter

WINTER 2011

## Central Gardens, School Consolidation and More

With the vote regarding Memphis City Schools consolidation set for March 8, the CGA Board of Directors offered our elected city and county representatives the opportunity to share their opinion on what this vote means for those living in Central Gardens. In addition, we asked them to advise us on what other issues are pending that will have the greatest impact on our neighborhood. Two of Central Gardens super district council representatives, Kemp Conrad and Myron Lowery, responded. Following are their responses.



### Calendar of Events

*March 8 – VOTE  
Referendum on  
the Transfer of  
Administration for  
the Memphis City  
Schools*

*Sunday, May 1 –  
Springfest*

*Monday, May 16 –  
Annual Meeting*

### **Kemp Conrad – Memphis City Council, Super District 9 (east of Willet)**

Though no one can say with complete certainty the impact a YES vote on the school referendum would have on Central Gardens residents, a NO vote is a vote to keep the status quo. In my opinion the status quo is unacceptable.

Popular scenarios for a unified school system include a Chancellor model with five to seven sub-districts whose boundaries would be determined by geography (i.e., neighborhood schools). Plans include a board for each sub-district made up of parents as well as community and business leaders. Accountability between the school districts and the communities they serve is beneficial because the most successful school districts also will become the most vibrant and desirable neighborhoods. A YES vote is an opportunity to achieve greater tax equity and recreate the educational system in our city.

I predict the other hot topics this year to be public safety, economic development, and budget challenges. Crime is trending lower every year and we must keep this going. Our new EDGE (Economic Development Growth Engine) organization has been approved and should accelerate job growth. Expect more announcements like Mitsubishi and Electrolux. And finally, while Memphis is in better financial shape than most big cities, we will have major budget pressure this year and will face difficult decisions.

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

## Myron Lowery – Memphis City Council, Chairman and Super District 8 (west of Willet)

**Q:** *Should the results of the upcoming vote be FOR the school charter surrender, what would be the most likely impact to Central Gardens residents?*

**A:** For Central Gardens residents who are students of Memphis City Schools or parents of MCS students, the most likely result will be a unified school district with equal educational opportunities for all students in Shelby County.

**Q:** *Should the results of the upcoming vote be AGAINST the school charter surrender, what would be the most likely impact to Central Gardens residents?*

**A:** For Central Gardens residents and all residents of the City of Memphis, should the referendum fail and if the Shelby County School Board files for special school district status, then MCS would lose millions of dollars in state funding which would require that funding gap to be filled by City of Memphis property taxes. In essence, most likely the City of Memphis property tax rate would increase significantly to cover the decrease in funding from Shelby County.

**Q:** *What are the other upcoming issues that will have an impact on Central Gardens?*

**A: Bicycle lanes and walkways:** Currently the Metropolitan Planning Organization is holding public meetings to gather citizen input on ways to incorporate bike lanes and pedestrian walkways into neighborhoods. These routes reduce pollution and encourage people to live healthier lifestyles.

**City of Memphis municipal election:** In October of this year citizens of Memphis will elect City Council Members, Mayor of Memphis, City Judges and City Court Clerk. Local elections are extremely important and citizens should do their best to learn about candidates and make informed decisions on their local leadership for the next four years.

**City Budget:** Mayor Wharton has informed the Council that the Fiscal Year 2012 budget, which will be presented to the Council in April, is projected to have a large deficit. Council Members will have to find a way to continue to provide City Services.

# If You Love Where You Live, Be a Part of It

by Keith Cole, CGA Membership Committee Chair

We have seen a very encouraging increase in our membership households during our fiscal 2010 year.

The 2011 fiscal membership year begins on May 1. Therefore, all Central Gardens residents will receive a membership renewal form via U.S. Mail around April 1st. There are three options for membership renewal:

1. Go to [www.centralgardens.org](http://www.centralgardens.org) and renew your membership.
2. Return your 2011 membership form via U.S. Mail
3. Bring your completed form to the annual meeting on May 16 at Grace St. Luke's School.

Your membership is what makes our neighborhood even stronger and helps protect the investment you have made in your home. In addition, your donation funds help with:

- Beautification projects such as seasonal plantings in the medians, alley and street clean-up, and the holiday wreath hanging.
- Tree replacement program that ensures the beautiful and natural canopy continues for generations to come. New trees are planted to take the place of those that die of old age, disease or weather. (Note – CGA members are eligible to participate at no additional cost.)
- Level 3 Arboretum status which brings statewide recognition for our neighborhood as ours is one of only two at this level in Tennessee and the only one that is neighborhood-based.
- Architectural integrity and value which is maintained through historic design guidelines and coordination with Memphis Landmarks Commission.
- Neighborhood communication through the CGA Newsletter, our website, a Facebook page and security updates and alerts from the CGA security committee.
- Community events such as Springfest, the 4th of July Parade and the annual home tour.

Become a 2011 member with a tax-deductible contribution to the CGA and help continue our efforts to support, preserve and showcase our neighborhood. If you would like to be more directly involved in the CGA, please indicate your area of interest on the form.

# New Building Vision of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

By Elizabeth Byrd

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, one of the premier historical and architectural landmarks of Central Gardens, has a new initiative. A 34,500 square foot “Cathedral Center” addition in the southwest corner of its campus is now under consideration by the Cathedral Parishioners. It will replace the kindergarten and pre-K buildings.

The architect’s design of the proposed Cathedral Center is displayed in the entrances of the Cathedral, which are open to the public before and after all masses. Proposed “Q & A” Sessions with the Leadership Steering Committee are scheduled. For dates and times, contact the Cathedral at 725-2700.

If you wish to share your comments on this proposed addition to be built on York Avenue, the Cathedral requests written submissions sent to: Cathedral Office/Vision, 1695 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104. Or email your comments to [aileen.palmer@ic.cdom.org](mailto:aileen.palmer@ic.cdom.org). Note that the subject is “Cathedral Office/Vision.”

## ICCS Offering Classes for Central Gardens Residents

Immaculate Conception Cathedral School has plans in the works to offer evening and/or weekend classes in conversational Spanish, pottery, and photography for Central Gardens neighbors. Details about dates, times and cost will be announced as soon as they are finalized. If you are interested in any of the topics, please email June LaPorta at [junelaporta@ic.cdom.org](mailto:junelaporta@ic.cdom.org) or call at 435-5345.

# Help Shape Central Gardens Future

By Christina Hall, CGA Board of Directors

The easiest and most obvious way to support the future of our neighborhood is to join the Central Gardens Association — each and every year.

However, if you want to do more and be instrumental in making decisions that affect our entire neighborhood, become involved in one of the CGA committees (see list below). The committees are comprised of neighbors who volunteer their time, energy, and talent to make all the wonderful events in our neighborhood happen.

Also, consider being a part of the Central Gardens Association Board of Directors. This group of neighbors decides what, when, and where things will happen in our area. The Board is comprised of executive officers and twenty-four members representing the four association districts, providing a voice for all of our diverse residents.

The Board meets on the third Tuesday of every month around 6:30 p.m. to socialize before the 7:00 p.m. meeting. Meetings last for approximately one hour and are held at a member’s home. Board members are asked to serve on two committees and participate in some way with the annual Home Tour. Members are elected for a term of two years coinciding with our fiscal year (May 1).

If you are interested in making a commitment to the best place to live in Memphis, please send me an email at [chall@jnhall.com](mailto:chall@jnhall.com).

### List of Committees:

- Annual Meeting
- Beautification
- Communications (Website & Database, Newsletter, Marketing)
- Community Spirit
- July 4th Parade
- Springfest
- Home Tour Landmarks, Zoning and Compliance
- Legal
- Membership
- Security



*Thor Kvande and his wife Dawn, with daughter Claire (age 10) and Thomas (age 7).*

## **Thor A. Kvande named Headmaster of Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School**

*By Christina Hall, CGA Board of Directors*

The Board of Trustees of Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School recently announced that Thor A. Kvande was appointed as the next Headmaster of the school. Kvande is currently the Head of Middle School at Grace-St. Luke's. He will succeed current Headmaster Thomas A. Beazley in July 2011, when Beazley steps down to accept a new position as Executive Director of Promise Academy Charter School in north Memphis.

Kvande and his wife Dawn have been married for 16 years. She has taught 8th grade algebra and served in the development department at Grace-St. Luke's. The Kvandes have two children, Claire (age 10) and Thomas (age 7), both of whom attend Grace-St. Luke's School.

## **Pet Owners – Being a Great Neighbor Tips**

*By Dr. Jen Clay*

Central Gardens is a wonderful neighborhood for pets. I would be willing to say that we are one of the most (if not the most) animal-friendly neighborhoods around. With so many animals and humans sharing space, it is important to keep others in mind so that we can all be good human neighbors and furry neighbors.

- **Vaccinate your pets.** Vaccines protect your pets against diseases that are transmitted between animals, such as distemper and parvo for dogs and panleukopenia and leukemia for cats. All of these viruses are potentially fatal and are prevalent in our area. And, while rabies is rare, it is important to vaccinate against it as well. Check with your veterinarian for a personalized vaccination recommendations for your pet.
- **Pick up the poop.** Let's be honest, one of the main activities for pets who go outdoors is eliminating. Unfortunately, there are some parasites that can be transmitted between animals and also to humans from feces. Pick up feces immediately after it has been eliminated. Parasite eggs are not in their contagious form immediately after elimination. In addition, keep your pets on monthly deworming medications (usually found in combination with heartworm medications).
- **Contain your pets.** Keep your dogs inside the house or inside a fenced yard when they are not being supervised. If they are out in the neighborhood, keep them on a leash. If your cats will let you, keep them indoors. This keeps the pets away from dangers such as cars or roaming animals. It also respects the space of those who do not care for animals on their property.
- **Be sensitive to barking.** While a barking dog can be a great crime deterrent, it is not a sound your neighbor cares to be awakened by.
- **ID.** Make sure that your pet has some identification in case she is lost. This can be a nametag with a phone number and/or a microchip.
- **Know your neighbors.** Make an effort to know the pets on your street or block. If one escapes, you can get him or her back home quickly. Our street has an address list that includes pets and their names.

# Order Form for Central Gardens Banners

Yes, I want to show my support for the Central Gardens Association by purchasing the new Central Gardens banner. Please send my banner(s) to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

	QTY	Total
Style "A" (2' x 3')		
Landscape orientation _____	@ \$30 each _____	

Style "B" (2' x 3')		
Portrait orientation _____	@ \$30 each _____	

Style "C" (3' x 5')		
Portrait orientation _____	@ \$40 each _____	

I have included my check for the total amount of: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Central Gardens Association,  
P.O. Box 41382, Memphis, TN 38174-1382

## Home Sale Information

ADDRESS	SPECS	STYLE	AGE	SALE PRICE	\$ PER SF
<b>August</b>					
660 Rozelle	2 BR, 2 BA	Traditional	c. 1925	\$245,000	\$143
1939 Carr	2 BR, 1.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1912	\$77,000	\$58
<b>September</b>					
1761 Central	4 BR, 2 BA	Victorian	c. 1905	\$180,000	\$65
1346 Vinton	3 BR, 2 BA	Traditional	c. 1905	\$134,900	\$54
185 LeMaster	3 BR, 2BA	Traditional	c. 1922	\$121,900	\$70
<b>October</b>					
1484 Goodbar	4 BR, 2.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1920	\$407,500	\$147
1600 Harbert	3 BR, 2.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1910	\$320,000	\$113
1494 Harbert	3 BR, 2 BA	Bungalow	c. 1908	\$207,000	\$79
717 S. McLean	3 BR, 2.5 BA	Spanish	c. 1925	\$232,000	\$98
1510 Central	2 BR, 2 BA	Traditional	c. 1944	\$172,000	\$109
<b>Condominium</b>					
532 Peabody Square	2 BR, 1.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1969	\$124,000	\$94
506 Peabody Square	2 BR, 1.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1969	\$120,000	\$89
677 Hotchkiss	3 BR, 2.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1973	\$160,000	\$94
1687 Regents Park	2 BR, 1.5 BA	Traditional	c. 1973	\$144,500	\$107

Information deemed reliable but not warranted.

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

# Central Gardens House Banners Now Available

Central Gardens Association is now offering another very special way to show your support of our neighborhood – The CGA House Banner.

Production of the banners is based on paid, pre-orders which are now being accepted. The banner comes in two sizes: the traditional 2' x3' house banner size and the “Belvedere” size of 3' x 5'.

The banner is digitally printed on high quality nylon and finished with a pole heading sleeve and leather tab for attaching to your banner pole.

The 2' x 3' size banner comes in either the portrait or landscape orientation (see illustration) for \$30 per banner. The 3' x5' banner is available in the portrait orientation for \$40 per banner. Order form is inside.



Landscape Format



Portrait Format



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The *Central Gardens Association Newsletter* is published quarterly. Neighborhood events or articles of interest may be submitted for consideration in the newsletter to pmbrown1524@comcast.net. **Please visit our website: [www.centralgardens.org](http://www.centralgardens.org).**

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