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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gentlemen gardeners focus of Mt. Lebanon tour

The Mt. Lebanon Public Library's 22nd Annual Garden Tour has a different twist from previous tours.

This year's "Gentlemen Gardeners" offer much more than putting greens and pot-lined basketball courts, although you may spot something similar on tour. Tourgoers will enjoy the gardening skills of seven Mt. Lebanon guys who will open their gardens from noon to 5 p.m. July 8.

This self-guided tour will lead you around Mt. Lebanon and provide a chance to look at various settings, ranging from shady spots mimicking cool woodland glens to sunny vegetable patches, deer-proofed to guarantee a good crop in spite of grazing herds.

This year's seven gardeners are David Blair, Chuck Brodbeck, Kevin Kirkland, Alan London, Rob Papke, John Polena and Rafael Sciuillo.

Rafael Sciuillo's garden is part of the Family Hospice and Palliative Care Center, where the wonders of gardening are an integral part of the therapy and caregiving

offered at the facility.

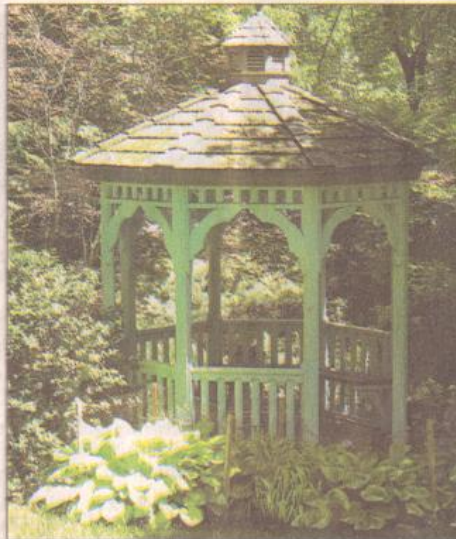
The Blair garden on Longuevue Drive has formal plantings, decorative metal work, custom stone around a spring-fed pool, and a vegetable garden.

In the Kirkland garden, Mrs. Kirkland picks the annuals but Kevin manages the rest, "including a German beer garden complete with a horse chestnut tree, a staple of the Munich beer gardens," according to Kirkland.

Rob Papke on Vermont Avenue features works of garden art crafted from recycled material. Being a shaded garden, this effort has lots of ideas for shaded locations.

Alan London's garden on St. Clair Drive is another masterpiece of shade with the back terraced gardens descending into the rear ravine. London will share many of his successes and failures with all who ask.

Chuck Brodbeck's garden on Glen Ridge Lane in Virginia Manor gives great lessons on how to deer-proof your vegetable garden and what to do with the space left



The gazebo on the first terrace level of Alan London's rear garden.

by your kids' old swing sets.

John Polena's garden has been struggling with soil erosion problems on the back hillside and has recently installed strategically placed giant rocks to deflect the

path of the water's runoff.

This tour benefits Mt. Lebanon Public Library and is attended by expert and novice gardeners from all over Western Pennsylvania.

"It is an inspirational 'I can



An example of the wrought iron work in the David Blair garden.



The statuary guard dog at the entrance to the rear Kevin Kirkland garden.

do that' event where each garden will give tour-goers plenty of ideas to incorporate into their own garden designs," said David McKibben, library volunteer and Garden Tour coordinator. In ad-

dition, the annual plant sale at the library will offer a large variety of perennials donated by local gardeners at affordable prices.

The Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Party will be hosted by the library's Board of Trustees the evening before the tour from 6 to 8 p.m. July 7 in the library's garden courtyard. "Puttering around the Garden" will be this year's theme.

Partygoers will enjoy a putting green at this event, in addition to complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wines, and beers. Tickets for the party are \$30, available at the library in advance or at the door on the day of the event. All proceeds benefit the library.

Tour tickets are \$15 in advance at the library's main desk and \$20 the day of the tour at the pavilion in front of the library's Castle Shannon Boulevard entrance. The Book Cellar, the library's continuously operating used book store, will be open that day with discounts for tour ticket holders.

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