



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Media

FROM: Keri Amorosi, Executive Director, 301-600-2841

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RE: 2017 Celebrate Frederick Beyond the Garden Gates Garden Tour Announces Featured Gardens

**2017 BEYOND THE GARDEN GATES GARDEN TOUR
FEATURES NINE GARDENS IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FREDERICK**

The Garden Club of Frederick and Celebrate Frederick, Inc. are proud to announce the featured gardens on the 2017 Beyond the Garden Gates Garden Tour on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 1 – 5 PM in downtown Frederick & Baker Park. This self-guided tour will feature nine of Frederick's finest gardens, and is sure to inspire green thumbs. Tickets are currently available exclusively online at CelebrateFrederick.com.

The Garden of Andrew and Emily Roy

354 Catocfin Avenue

Cultivating a full-scale, food production garden in the midst of a bustling suburban setting is an ambitious goal that these homeowners have embraced whole-heartedly. Nearly every useable space surrounding the home has been dedicated to growing produce, making this space a true example of edible landscaping. In addition to growing fruits and vegetables, the garden also houses a chicken coop. Michael Judd, owner and principal designer of ecolōgia, assisted the homeowners' with the design and concept of this space. Ecolōgia is an edible and ecological landscape design and install service that promotes healthy, whole living systems.

The Garden of Geoffrey and Dawn Irwin

26 Kline Boulevard

This welcoming space is ideal for quiet evenings of relaxation, or for larger celebrations with family and friends. An expansive, covered porch and fire pit beckon guests to sit and enjoy a glass of wine and conversation. From here, guests step on to a stone path that winds around a stunning, cascading fountain flanked by benches. One of three separate fountains throughout the garden, this centerpiece holds pride of place and is an ideal backdrop for capturing special memories. While touring this garden, be sure to take note of several Lyman Whitaker kinetic wind sculptures. These stunning works of art are entirely dependent on natural elements for movement, and are both hypnotic and captivating. Other interesting items of note include several bird baths, a sundial, light post, statuary and a boat rudder.

The Garden of John and Patty Kettlestrings

115 Kline Boulevard

Certified as "Bay-Wise" by the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners, this garden blends family-friendly use with environmentally sound practices aimed at improving the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. Visitors will find a variety of native, pollinator-friendly perennials and plants thriving. Specimens to note include Kousa and American Dogwoods, mature Southern Magnolia, winterberry holly, Blue Ice Cypress, Blue Atlas Cedar, Sweetshrub, Chinese Fringetree and Paperbark and Japanese Maples. Bricks from a former patio have been repurposed to create a whimsical herb spiral, yielding an abundance of aromatic and delicious herbs. Indiana Limestone steppers bordered by creeping thyme create a cozy seating area in the front garden, providing an ideal spot to enjoy the benefits of this beautiful space. Frederick County Master Gardeners will be on site to share tips and benefits of incorporating Bay-Wise landscaping techniques in to your own garden.

Culler Lake Renaissance Project

Culler Lake, Baker Park

Originally constructed in the 1930's, Culler Lake is a 3-acre, man-made lake designed to serve as a storm water management pond for 66 up slope acres around Baker Park. After nearly 80 years as a hallmark of the Baker Park landscape, the lake was in dire need of improvements to its infrastructure. In response, Friends of Baker Park, a non-profit community service organization, teamed with the City of Frederick to launch the Culler Lake Renaissance plan. A two-phased project, the first phase was completed in 2016 at a cost approximating two million dollars. This phase focused on remediating the lake's

aquatic environment and installing storm water management best practices. Specific features of this phase included draining and dredging the lake, installing gravel wetlands with boardwalks and reconstruction of key infrastructure such as the central fountain and retaining walls. Members of Friends of Baker Park and Chesapeake Bay Trust interns will staff spots around the lake for people who wish to take a self-directed tour of the lake's features.

Guests are encouraged to visit the Green Neighbor Festival when stopping at Culler Lake presented by Hood College's Center for Coastal and Watershed Studies (CCWS) and the Friends of Baker Park. Formerly the Green Neighbor Forum, the 2-day festival will promote environmental sustainability and "green" practices to protect land, water, and energy resources. The festival will include an educational walking tour of the newly restored Culler Lake structures, eco-friendly vendors, family-friendly activities, a tree tour, a fish release and more!

The Garden of Mike and Meta Nash

300 Rockwell Terrace

This hospitable, outdoor living space has evolved over the nearly four decades that the homeowners have owned their home. The focus, however, has always remained nurturing a garden that is inviting and welcoming to family and friends. A charming stone patio, koi pond and outdoor fireplace provide opportunities to enjoy this space throughout much of the year. Bits of reclaimed history can be found in the fireplace, including brick salvaged from a local 19th century industrial building and an ornamental iron window guard from a late 19th century building in DC. The focal point of the garden is an impressive, 100-plus year old English walnut tree. Flower beds overflow with hydrangea, camellias, azaleas, viburnum, magnolia and nandina interspersed with perennials, bulbs and grasses. A parterre vegetable garden at the rear of the property provides the homeowners with fresh tomatoes, okra, greens and herbs. Poole Stone and Garden collaborated with the homeowners on the design of the hardscape, pond and fireplace.

The Garden of Fred and Jane Branski

106 West Third Street

Playful gnomes and grumpy gargoyles are just some of the whimsical sculptures that can be found hidden amongst the lush greens and colorful blooms of this enchanting

garden. A mix of semi-formal and casual, the homeowners delight in using the space for a variety of gatherings including BBQs, afternoon teas and wine tastings. A charming brick patio leads to a winding stone path lined by beds brimming with shade-loving vegetation. The path ends at a formal fountain bordered by verdant shrubs. Beyond, guests will find a cozy seating area providing a picturesque focal point at the back of the long, narrow garden. While visiting this garden, visitors are invited to view the original site plan to better appreciate the ever-evolving process from concept and development, to finished product.

The Garden of Jim and Mary McSherry

19 East Second Street

A rare open space in historic downtown Frederick, this garden has hosted numerous family events from wedding receptions to relaxed pool parties. The yard includes the original carriage house which is surrounded by a beautiful Southern Magnolia tree and many perennial plants. The rear of the yard includes a play area for children and a relaxing wooden sliding swing. The poolside garden includes multiple lilacs, day lilies, black-eyed susans, and peonies. The homeowners enjoy the opportunity this garden provides for entertaining. The yard also offers the ability to practice environmentally responsible landscaping methods. One such example is the rain garden that is seamlessly incorporated into the overall design of the garden. A rain garden is a depression that is planted with native and adaptive plants. Rainwater from pavement, roofs or walkways collects in the rain garden, allowing it the opportunity to absorb into the soil, reducing pollution by up to 30%.

The Garden of Theresa T. Michel

114 West Second Street (*Garden Entrance*)

Stepping through the gates of this formal garden is to step back in time. Tucked behind one of downtown Frederick's celebrated homes, which fronts on Council Street, history can be found in every nook and cranny. Originally built in the early part of the nineteenth century, the property spans nearly half a City block. The overall design of the garden wraps around the original stables, slave quarters, ice house, smoke house and coachman's house. Heirloom roses, with their signature fragrance and abundant color, share space with the historic outbuildings. All are lovingly maintained and enjoyed by the homeowner. Providing solitude and quiet, it is hard to imagine that the garden lies adjacent to busy downtown thoroughfares and municipal buildings. Eager to share this

charming space with family and friends, the homeowner hosts al fresco dinners, family weddings and other special events in her "secret garden."

The Record Street Home

115 Record Street

The Record Street Home celebrates 125 years of serving the Frederick community this year. Established in 1892, the home was created to provide a "means of obtaining the comfort and security so necessary for the repose of mind and body which should ever attend the declining years of life," and is the only assisted living facility of its kind still operable in the State of Maryland. Home to up to twenty-nine residents, the facility is a not-for-profit organization run by a Board of Trustees and a Board of Managers dedicated to providing a loving environment for residents to live out the remainder of their lives. The memory garden provides a quiet place for residents, staff and volunteers to enjoy the outdoors, and to honor those who have served or resided in the home. A soothing fountain and bird baths quietly commemorate the dedication and impact past board members and residents have had on the future of the home.

A variety of ticket options are available for guests planning to attend the tour. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$25 in advance or \$30 the days of the tour. Advance tickets are available Saturday, April 1 through Friday, May 19 online at CelebrateFrederick.com or at the following downtown Frederick retail locations: Colonial Jewelers, 1 S. Market Street and the Frederick Visitors Center, 151 S. East Street. In addition, tickets can be purchased at Chartreuse & co, 4007 Buckeystown Pike during their Spring Market Days from Thursday, April 21 through Sunday, April 23 and Art in the Barn, Garden Tag Sale from Thursday, May 18 through Sunday, May 21.

Day of tour ticket purchases can be made at the Tour Hospitality Center located in Frederick City Hall, 101 North Court Street on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from Noon – 5 PM. All tour guests are invited to take advantage of the Hospitality Center where complimentary light refreshments are available, courtesy of Roy Rogers.

For those tour goers who frequent our Candlelight House Tour in December, be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to save on your tickets by purchasing a Home and Garden Ticket Package for \$40. Package sales are available exclusively online at CelebrateFrederick.com.

As all of the gardens featured on the tour are provided courtesy of the homeowners, proper garden tour etiquette is requested. This includes remaining on paths or following directions through the gardens as indicated by the hosts. In addition, please refrain from wearing high-heeled shoes or pushing strollers in grassy areas. This will help to preserve the beauty of the gardens that the owners have worked so diligently to provide for the tour. Parents are asked to prevent children from picking flowers.

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For more information, please contact Celebrate Frederick at 301-600-CITY (2489) or visit CelebrateFrederick.com.

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