

# Cornwall Street Garden Tour Offered As Rotary Fundrasier

**Margaret Morton**

*Staff Writer*

Visitors to this weekend's Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival may also want to take in The Rotary Club of Leesburg's tour of five private gardens and one home along Wirt and Cornwall streets in Leesburg, to be held simultaneously with the festival. In addition, the Old Stone Church and Cemetery, the site of the oldest Methodist congregation in the country, will be open to the public.

The tours will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, April 17, and from noon-4 p.m. Sunday, April 18. The \$10 admission fee will go to the Rotary Club of Leesburg's Perry Winston Scholarship Fund, which each year awards two \$10,000 scholarships to high school seniors who best demonstrate the Rotary ideal of "Service above Self." Ages 12 and under are admitted free.

Cornwall Street is just north of the festival area and the five gardens include: the Thomas Knox House at 7 Wirt Street NW; 216 Cornwall Street, the Dr. J.T. Jackson House at 212 Cornwall Street NW (house interior); 11 Cornwall Street NW; the Robinhurst Cottage at 17 Cornwall Street NW; and the Elijah V. White House at 21 Wirt Street NW.

Owners Ron Rust and Judy Kozacik at the federal Knox House have terraced gardens at the back of the house, divided into garden rooms planted with roses, rhododendrons and hydrangeas throughout. Hollies, sulphur heart ivy, pyracantha and yews line the driveway. A handsome copper beech separates the drive from the cottage to the south. Behind the garage are six raised beds for a cook's garden and perennials including peonies. Walking up the stone path leads the viewer to the next level, where there is a mix of shade and sun plants. A large hemlock dominates the area along with century-old American tree boxwoods. A grotto is tucked in the back. Another find is the osage orange dating from the early 1800s at the end of the path on the north side of the garden. **7 WIRT ST.**

Wiley and Teck Russell own the Italianate style house at 216 Cornwall Street. Built by the town banker Anthony Dibrell in 1873, the house features nooks and crannies at every turn, seven tin roofs, nine exterior doors and six fireplaces. The owners are responsible for the planting of the "practical" garden, which features curved beds with hosta, ferns, hydrangea and lilies surrounding patios and a pool. A secret garden is hidden under magnolia. The large conifer with orange bark and tree limbs growing "willy nilly" is in actuality a rare Chinese Fir.

Next on the tour is the Dr. J.T. Jackson House, so named after a much loved general practitioner who delivered many Loudoun

babies in his time. The stone Colonial Revival style home was built for Jackson and his wife, Patricia, in 1939-1941, and is open for tour. In the 1940s, Dr. Jackson had his office in the western wing of the house. The 5,000-square-foot house was recently purchased by PR Custom Homes and has undergone significant renovation and upgrading, with all new kitchen cabinets and appliances, plus the entire interior has been repainted and the floors refinished. New air conditioning and electrical systems have been installed. A new two-and-a-half car garage can potentially have an apartment/office on the second floor. The home is currently for sale. **212 CORNWALL**

Ellen Wall owns 11 Cornwall Street. The earliest part of the home was originally built in the late 18th century, reputedly by Phillip Noland, the owner and operator of one of Loudoun County's seven ferries across the Potomac River. In the next century, the house was significantly enlarged. In her more than 20 years of ownership, Wall has had the garden redesigned by Debbie Chavez to divide the property into different "garden rooms." An early 20th century American boxwood is on the west side of the house. A butterfly garden, birdbath, cutting garden, shaded gazebo and flower lined walkway are at the rear of the house.

Robinhurst Cottage, at 17 Cornwall Street NW, is owned by Ronald Rogos and Tracy Coffing. The bungalow cottage has its own particular charm. It was built around the turn of the 20th century and still features its original pebbledash stucco exterior finish. The current owners bought the property in 2002. The gardens were designed by the former owners, Robert Hincherrick and William Pittman, and include numerous mature evergreen trees that create a woodland garden setting. Distinctive trees include American boxwoods, hemlocks, a Norway spruce, Douglas fir, cedar and magnolias. In the hot summer months, the shaded garden provides a variety of cool hostas and ferns.

Last, but not least, the handsome Elijah V. White House at 21 Wirt Street represents an excellent example of the Queen Anne style townhouse, built in 1893 by Leesburg's Norris Brothers for Col. Elijah V. White. Owned by Fred and Kate Williams, the garden features plantings that are fragrant and especially attractive to birds. The front perennial border includes a rose "ballerina" and a large variety of unusual perennials. A knot garden is outlined with "Justin Brower" boxwoods and accented by boxwood topiaries. Hostas and ferns surround the fish pond. Mature American boxwood creates a thick privacy hedge. In spring, the daphne "Genkwa," various flowering and fruit trees, along with abundant spring bulbs and lilacs make a distinctive statement. ■