

# FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

| OMB APPROVAL                                   |           |
|--|-----------|
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

|   |         |          |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|---------|----------|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person<br><b>BALOUSEK JOHN</b> |         |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><b>CENTRAL GARDEN &amp; PET CO [CENT]</b> |  |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |  |  |
| (Last)  | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>02/08/2018                           |  |  |   |  |  |
| C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY, 1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600    |         |          |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| (Street)  |         |          | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                                     |  |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person   |  |  |
| WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597  |         |          |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| (City)  | (State) | (Zip)    | <b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b>  |  |  |   |  |  |

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            |          | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|----------|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price    |   |  |   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/08/2018                           |  | M                              |   | 6,762   | A          | \$ 9.86  | 7,392   | D  |   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/08/2018                           |  | F(1)                           |   | 1,752   | D          | \$ 38.06 | 5,640   | D  |   |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   |   |            |          | 1,455   | I  | By Balousek Family L.P. (2)                           |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |            |          | 5,160   | I  | By Balousek Family L.P. (2)                           |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) |     | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |       |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-----|--|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|-------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V | (A)   | (D) | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date |   |  |  |  |  | Title |
| Stock Option (right to buy)                | \$ 9.86  | 02/08/2018                           |  | M                              |   | 6,762   |     | (3)  | 08/10/2018      | Class A Common Stock  | 6,762                                      | \$ 0   | 0  | D  |       |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
|                                |               |           |         |       |

|   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| BALOUSEK JOHN<br>C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY<br>1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600<br>WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597 | X |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|

### Signatures

|   |  |                     |
|---|--|---------------------|
| /s/ JoAnn Jonte as attorney-in-fact for John Balousek |  | 02/09/2018          |
| <small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>        |  | <small>Date</small> |

### Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Shares withheld by the Issuer in payment of the aggregate option exercise price incurred upon the above-reported exercise of options. The amount of shares withheld is based on the respective average of the high and low sales prices on the date of exercise.
- (2) By Balousek Family L.P. Mr. Balousek is the general partner of Balousek Family L.P. Mr. Balousek disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (3) One-third of the total options granted became exercisable at each of 6 months, 18 months and 30 months after February 10, 2015, the date of the grant.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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