

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO  
Form 4  
November 15, 2016

**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, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Ranelli John

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO  
[CENT]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
11/14/2016

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY, 1340 TREAT BOULEVARD, SUITE 600

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 11/14/2016                           |  | M                              | 154,959   | A   | \$ 8.93  | 456,754 D   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 11/14/2016                           |  | F(1)                           | 123,615   | D   | \$ 26.89   | 332,802 D   |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   |   | 638  | I   |

By John R. Ranelli Trust

|              |  |        |   |   |
|--------------|--|--------|---|---|
| Common Stock |  | 81,863 | I | By John R. Ranelli Trust <sup>(2)</sup> |
| Common Stock |  | 96,379 | D |   |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable Expiration Date                         | Title Amount or Number of Shares                              |
| Stock Option (right to buy)                | \$ 8.93  | 11/14/2016                           |  | M                              | 154,959   | <sup>(3)</sup> 02/11/2019                                | Class A Common Stock 154,959                                  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Ranelli John<br>C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY<br>1340 TREAT BOULEVARD, SUITE 600<br>WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ JoAnn Jonte, as Attorney-in-Fact for John Ranelli  
11/15/2016

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## 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)

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Shares withheld by the Issuer in payment of the aggregate option exercise price and withholding tax liability 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 the exercise.

- (2) Mr. Ranelli disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of the Company's Common Stock and Class A Common Stock owned by the John R. Ranelli Trust Dated 12/24/97 except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (3) The option vests in four equal annual installments beginning February 11, 2013.

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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