



Garden Oaks Gazette

Volume 19, No. 5 Circulation 1550 May 1996

MAY CIVIC CLUB MEETING

On May 7th, our guest speaker will be District A Councilmember Helen Huey. She always brings a wealth of information about what's going on in our area. Have your questions ready for her.... and don't be surprised if you get an answer!

The Garden Oaks Civic Club would like to thank Susan Grant for last months presentation and wish her every success in her new business. Also, the *Gazette* would like to apologize for last months spelling error of her name.

ELECTION WINNER

Congratulations are in order for long time Garden Oaks resident Yolanda Garza, who won the race for Precinct Chair of Precinct 1086 with 70% of the vote in the March election. She will take the oath of office on May 1st, 1996. "I am very excited about it and I really appreciate the support I got from all of my neighbors" said Yolanda.

JULY 4TH BAR-B-Q & BICYCLE PARADE

If anyone is interested in volunteering for the second annual event, please contact Janice Walden at 869-6534.



GARDEN OAKS RECYCLING

Gilbert King heads up a group of faithful volunteers that come together once a month to collect, sort, and return materials for recycling. As you can see from the numbers, this program is making a difference. Over 166,000 pounds was kept from going to the dump site in 1995. At the same time, almost \$5,000.00 was raised. Congratulations and many thanks to Gilbert and his band of volunteers for a job well done! This excellent report was prepared by Margaret Dice.

MONTH	MONTHLY INCOME FOR 1995			*POUNDS OF PRODUCTS RECYCLED		
	METAL	PAPER	TOTAL	METAL	PAPER	TOTAL
JAN	\$	369.4	369.4	JAN	N/A	N/A
FEB	72.94	96	168.94	FEB	N/A	N/A
MAR	235.2	209.51	444.71	MAR	932	16644
APR	90.65	315.75	406.4	APR	259	14722
MAY	100.8	491.12	591.92	MAY	288	18661
JUN	58.45	744.4	802.85	JUN	167	19040
JUL	70	333.9	403.9	JUL	200	12193
AUG	152.75	428.64	581.39	AUG	325	19356
SEP	101.05	329.61	430.66	SEP	235	17135
OCT	109.89	220.49	330.38	OCT	297	14754
NOV	88.43	135.72	224.15	NOV	239	14960
DEC	39.96	95.66	135.62	DEC	108	15620
TOTAL	1120.12	3770.2	4890.32	TOTAL	3050	163085

*ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (RESOURCES SAVED):

	TREES	KW/HR.- ELECTRIC	GALLONS/ WATER	CUBIC/YD. LANDFILL	LBS.OF AIR POLLUTION
JAN	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FEB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MAR	182	43808	74795	32	641
APR	127	30711	52434	22	449
MAY	165	39704	67788	29	581
JUN	164	39579	67575	29	579
JUL	106	25611	43726	19	375
AUG	169	40727	69535	30	596
SEP	148	35793	61110	26	524
OCT	128	30855	52679	23	452
NOV	129	31158	53197	23	456
DEC	134	32386	55293	24	474
TOTAL	1452	350332	598132	257	5127

Carol Meyer



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GO Sound-off

Dear Gazette Editor:

It's a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Garden Oaks as I drive down a street in the interior of the neighborhood. Spring is in full bloom, yards are coming out of Winter and becoming alive again, grown ups are strolling and children are playing in the streets.

The scene is strikingly similar to what I would see in my section of the neighborhood, Section 1, with one exception. Children are not playing in the street. As if by some silent ban by their parents, children do not enter the street alone, unattended. Rarely do children play in their front yards. If children are seen in their front yard, or biking down the street, they are attended by an adult. Supervised play. The reasons? Fear of crime, but mostly, the reality of traffic.

The narrow, curb-less streets that characterize Garden Oaks were never intended to be thoroughfares. Yet they are becoming thoroughfares. Streets like West 34th, West 38th and some sections of Sue Barnett. In many instances, as I have witnessed, there is no room on the road for two cars passing and a child riding a bicycle. We do not have sidewalks. We do not have curbs that would keep a car from rounding off the side of the road into the easement where most children ride their bikes anyway. Our street - none of the streets in Garden Oaks - have that protection, and unfortunately, while interior streets remain safe, it's at the expense of the neighborhood's peripheral streets which are taking the beating. And don't be convinced that the traffic will let up.

I hear that, according to one study by the City of Houston, in the next twenty years, traffic in our area will increase 70 to 80%. Is that incredulous? But if city planners are correct in their estimation, the burden of traffic will flow into our open streets of Garden Oaks unimpeded. Not all streets will be affected - like cul-de-sacs and circuitous routes. But if you think traffic is now bad on streets like West 34th, West 38th and Sue Barnett, be here in twenty years long after the speed humps have lost their hump.

I still think children should come first. When I was growing up in a Memorial-

area neighborhood thirty years ago, we could play all day outside, and Mother never worried about us. Although times have changed, and we live in a less secure world, the notion that our children can not play freely in their front yard, or ride their bike alone, or cross the street unattended to play with a friend deeply offends me. Part of me says, has it really come to this? I have visions of West Houston suburbs (where I don't want to live) where that code is far from a parent's mind. And, I am reminded of the interior of Garden Oaks where this is not a problem or a concern. Although speed humps have been installed on my street, West 34th, the devices have deterred only speed, not the volume of traffic. From my observation, speed has always been only 20% of the problem. Cut-through traffic 80% of the problem. So, we still live with a problem and no plan.

Lest anyone forget, in 1994 the Neighborhood Traffic Committee circulated a petition; of the 287 residents in Section 1 who responded, 50.3% favored the proposed traffic alterations. That is, a majority favored change.

Although the procedures for filing for traffic alterations have changed, our petition is still valid with the City of Houston. But the original Traffic Committee, having lost the wind in its sails, has abandoned the comprehensive approach that could benefit all Section 1 residents. The result? A fractured, uncoordinated street-by-street approach that will benefit some and disadvantage others - the very situation opponents two years ago fought so hard against.

I favor a comprehensive approach that would benefit all, because the changes that are inevitable will affect all. I want the children in Section One to enjoy the same security in playing that the children in the interior of Garden Oaks enjoy. And, for anyone who doubts my assessment about the flow of traffic now on West 34th with speed humps, I invite them to park their lawn chair in my front yard, and watch the traffic go by.

Most sincerely yours,

Janice Walden, Section One Resident

The fractured, uncoordinated street by street approach is due to the requirements of the speed hump program established in mid-1995. Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have a wonderful guest speaker this month. Hammerin' Helen Huey, our hard working, super-responsive, and Best City Council Representative ever, will visit with us at our May meeting. As always Helen's visit is an excellent opportunity for you to share your concerns and to hear what actions the city is taking or may take to rectify them. To me, this is what participative democracy is all about the chance to speak directly to our elected leadership and discuss the issues of the day. Let's have a good turnout and welcome this most effective legislator.

The Graham Park Committee delivered a letter, which endorsed the plan adopted at the last civic club meeting, to the City's Parks and Recreation Department, Gilbane Construction and City Councilmember Helen Huey's office. We are hopeful that construction based on the plans will continue soon. Please route any questions or concerns about the park through Ann Spiering or me and not directly to Parks & Rec. personnel.

Spring is the time of year for neighborhood home tours and 1996 will be at least the third year in a row that Garden Oaks has not held this event. In past years we had people lined up around the block to see some of our homes! Our neighborhood is booming and with all the new renovations and new construction we should be the showcase of Houston!! I am making a plea for a volunteer to serve as the "project leader" for a 1997 home tour. I feel confident that if a chairperson is identified, helpers for the various committees will willingly surface in good numbers. Let's also consider combining a garden tour organized by the Garden Club with a home tour for this time next year. We will discuss this further at the civic club meeting. PLEASE CALL 694-5934 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!! I look forward to seeing you all May 5th.

YARD OF THE MONTH

Yard of the month for April was awarded to Kathy Huber and John Everett of 427 W. 33rd Street. Congratulations Kathy & John!

COST OF LIVING IN HOUSTON

A new report states that Houston continues to maintain a substantial cost of living advantage over most other large metropolitan areas.

- Living costs are nearly 17 percent below the average for the 23 large metropolitan areas of more than 1.5 million population.
 - Excluding Manhattan (NY), housing costs in Houston are 29 percent below the average for the large metropolitan areas and 13 percent below the average for all 322 participating places.
 - Health Care Costs are 9 percent below the 23 large metropolitan area's average.
 - Utility costs - largely home energy consumption - are 14 percent lower than in the average metropolitan area.
- Money Magazine has ranked Houston as No. 16 among the U.S.'s 100 largest metropolitan areas for having the lowest state and local tax burden for 1995. The next highest rates in Texas cities were Austin (No. 19) and Dallas (No. 23).

HOME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN DISTRICT A

In 1995, 306 permits were issued for the construction of new single family homes and 558 permits issued for the renovation of single family homes in District A. The valuation of these 862 permits was \$33,013,910 - or an average of \$38,210 per permit.

There are TWELVE new subdivisions under construction in the Spring Branch area with a total of 638 new homes. Three subdivisions are sold out. Others reports brisk sales, with contracts for homes ranging in value from \$65,000 to over \$300,000.

The above articles are from Helen Huey's March District A Newsletter.

CITY OF HOUSTON HOT LINES

Public Works & Engineering 754-0600
24 hrs., 7 days
Pothole Repair (48 Hours) 754-0600
24 hrs., 7 days
Solid Waste (8-5 M-F) 865-4177
Deed Restriction Enforcement 652-3272
24 hrs., 7 days
Parks & Recreation 645-HELP
24 hrs., 7 days
Neighborhood Protection 525-2525
24 hrs., 7 days
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729 W. 39th St.	530 Byrne
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Bible Study - 9:45 am
Worship Services - 11:00 am & 5:00 pm
AWANA - 6:00 pm
Home Fellowship Groups - 6:00 pm
Wednesday Devotional - 6:30 pm

Mother's Day Out & Preschool

9:00 am to 2 pm, Tues. & Thurs.
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CLEAN-UP

The Friendship Garden cleanup was a big success on Saturday, March 16. Special thanks to Section 1 resident, Mark Saranie, for help in weeding and raking. Accolades are also in order to Mark, Don Sievers, and Ed de Alba who repaired and recemented the picnic table and benches in the park.

GARDEN CLUB

The May Garden Club meeting (Thursday, May 9th) will be hosted by Mr. J. D. Miller of Convention Plants Associates at 917 Lehman. Mr. Miller will discuss growing bamboo and give the Garden Club the opportunity to see a wide variety of bamboo he has growing on the grounds of his business. The regular meeting time has been moved up 30 minutes and will start at 6:00 P.M.. Wear comfortable shoes and please carpool if possible. Contact Brenda de Alba with any questions (694-5934).

GAZEBO UPDATE

Memorial plaques that were ordered have been installed around the gazebo. Many thanks to Bill Chastain for his dedication and hard work!

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GARDEN OAKS

CONSTABLE PROGRAM UPDATE

by Angela Dickson, Constable Security Director

The month of April will be spent doing a block walk to invoice neighbors in Sections 1/1A. This takes a massive amount of work by Block Captains who are all busy and make time to do this. Block Captains are vital to the Program's existence and can be very hard to find. Besides Block Walking, Block Captains are invited to regular meetings where we exchange input and suggestions on decisions to be made. Block Captains shape and direct the program as it evolves. If you belong in Sections 1/1A, or have special interest in the Program, please feel free to attend quarterly meetings to give us your input or ideas. Please call me and let me know if you wish to be informed when the Constable Program team has a meeting.

Thanks to the following Block Captains who have signed on to help and special thanks for those of you who are willing to take streets other than your own.

Section 1:

34th St.

Kim McMath, Beth Patterson, Ann Spiering, and Warren Walden.

33rd St.

Patty and Ken Jeffers, Mike Abrams and Jan Erikson, Shelly Rogers and Pat Buron, Suzanne and Gil Depaul.

32nd St.

Dorothy Forbes, Rick Englert, Angela Dickson, Barry Morris and Dianna Coldiron

31st St
Martha and Jerry Kennedy, Adrian and Connie Guerra and Beth Harp.

30th St.

Amy Homeyer, Sam Quisenberry, Steve Schroeder, Charlie Dickson.

Lawrence Charlie Davidson

Section 1A:

Mary Frazee, Peggy Kramer, Marcia Walker and friends.

If I have forgotten anyone, please let me know!

June's Gazette will feature those who financially contributed to the Constable Program for the 1995/96 contract year. Without you, the Program wouldn't exist. For the 1996/1997 year, thanks will also go to those who paid in full by May 15. Thanks will also go to those who Sponsor a Neighbor.

GO COP REPORT

YOUR faithful patrollers put in 95.5 hours in the month of February helping to keep crime down in the Garden Oaks area.

Crimes reported for the month of February were as follows:

- Assault in the 900 block of W. 43rd on February 11th at 2:30 a.m.
- Burglary in the 700 block of W. 41st on February 4th at 10:00 p.m.
- Auto theft from a driveway in the 700 block of W. 41st on February 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

As you may have noticed 2 of the 3 crimes reported for our area occurred with in one block of N. Shepherd where the criminal(s) have easy access to a quick getaway. If you live in this area or in the 200 blocks of W. 30th to W. 34th you may want to start paying extra attention to who is in the area when you leave your home or vehicle. A word of warning to the bikers, joggers and walkers of the neighborhood. Please exercise care as well as your bodies when you are out on the streets. It was reported to me by an area resident that she was harassed by a carload of youths which passed her while she was out walking near her home. The victim reported one of the youths was hanging out of the car door and threw something at her which fortunately missed. While it is very helpful for your local patrollers to know of such incidents it is equally important to file a report with HPD or the Constable's office so they can be watching for similar incidents throughout the neighborhood.

At this month's PIP meeting the Guest Speaker was Trooper Linda Himes from the Texas Highway Patrol. She discussed the new concealed hand gun law. Among the things she covered were how to apply for a Concealed Handgun License (CHL), the training requirements to get the license, licensing renewal procedures and restricted places where licensees are prohibited by statute from carrying their weapons. It may interest some who were at the last Civic Association meeting to know that political meetings are one of the venues to which a licensee may not bring their weapon.

Before closing my first column as the coordinator of the Citizens Patrol, I thought an introduction would be in order. My wife and I moved to Garden Oaks in December of 1993 and are living in Section 1A with our 2 cats and a dog. We both work for Harris County, my wife as a juvenile probation officer and I am an adult probation officer. With less than 2 years experience in the Citizens Patrol Unit I feel like a relative youngster to the many veteran patrollers who have been trying to keep the streets of Garden Oaks safe for all of us. I am looking forward to my time as the coordinator of GO COPS Program.

Carl Waters, Jr.

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GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Children/birthdates: _____

Year moved to Garden Oaks: _____ Paying Dues for: 19 _____ Section #: _____

ANNUAL DUES (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31):

Household \$10 _____ Senior Citizen \$5 _____ Business \$25 _____

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE: *Garden Oaks needs voluntary financial assistance beyond the amount of dues payments it receives. Below are some suggestions for programs needing such assistance:*

Beautification \$6 _____ GO Elem School Montessori Program* \$6 _____
Plant Co-Op \$6 _____ GO COP (Citizens' Patrol) \$6 _____
Garden Club \$6 _____ Gazette (Newsletter) \$6 _____
All of these \$30 _____

**Gifts to the Montessori program are tax deductible.*

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Mail to Craig Lee, 212 W. 34th St., Houston, TX 77018.

ENROLLMENT FORM - GARDEN OAKS CONSTABLE PROGRAM

Yes, I would like to enroll in the Garden Oaks Constable Program.

Name: _____ \$200.00 annual dues

Address: _____ Amt. Enclosed: \$

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CLIP AND SAVE RECYCLING REMINDERS

WHEN: Second Saturday of the month from 8 to 11 a.m.

WHERE: Drop-off at the Garden Oaks Theater parking lot

WHAT AND HOW:

Aluminum Cans: Non-magnetic, RINSED.

NON-FERROUS METALS: Items such as copper, brass, and aluminum. No refrigerators, dishwashers or other appliances.

GLASS: Separated into clear and colored glass; RINSED AND CLEANED; NO LIDS; Labels can be left on; NO PLATE GLASS;

NEWSPAPERS: Bundled or placed in paper grocery bags; no plastic bags please.

COMPUTER PAPER: Bundled, boxed or placed in paper bags; no carbon inserts, no binding, and no staples. **WHITE LEDGER:** Bond paper bundled, boxed or placed in paper bags; NO glossy junk mail, NCR (No Carbon Required) paper, or telephone books, no binding

BROWN PAPER GROCERY BAGS are also recyclable so use them whenever you can.

PLASTICS: Milk jugs and plastic soft drink bottles rinsed and cleaned.

**Garden Oaks Civic Club Association - Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 1996, 7:00 p.m. - Garden Oaks Baptist Church**

Officers in Attendance

Craig Lee, Vice President Alex Martinez, 2nd Vice President, Lynn Sievers, Secretary

Committee Chairs in Attendance

Oscar Ochoa, Advertising Director Jane Ann Roberts, Education Liaison, Brenda de Alba, *Gazette* Hand Delivery, Carl Waters, GO-COPs, Angela Dickson, Constable Patrol, Misty Jones, Beautification

The meeting was called to order by Craig Lee, who presided over the meeting in President Ed de Alba's absence. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the March meeting as published in the *Gazette*.

Graham Park

Ann Spiering reported on the Graham Park renovations progress. Work began on the park before the plan was reviewed with the park committee (Ann Spiering, Jane Ann Roberts and Ed de Alba). Ann met with Councilwoman Helen Huey and was able to get revisions to the original plans. Two revised plans were presented. In each, the existing tennis court and baseball diamond will remain in place. No landscaping besides resodding bare areas is in the plans. Both revised plans included a picnic pavilion, two-swing sets, a playground area, water fountains, sidewalks, handicapped access and security lighting. After the presentation and group discussion of the options, a vote was taken. The plan with the picnic area closer to the street and both play areas was chosen. Garden Oaks must submit a formal letter to the parks department requesting the changes to the plan. Ann Spiering will discuss this issue with Councilwoman Helen Huey.

Budget

The proposed Civic Club budget, prepared by Ray Housley, was published in the *April Gazette*. 1995 receipts \$14,130 spending \$7,020 12/31/95 balance \$24,810.
1996 receipts \$10,000* spending \$11,250** 12/31/96 balance \$23,560.

* An anticipated decrease in revenue from the recycling program due to City of Houston recyclable garbage pickup scheduled to begin in Garden Oaks this year.

** Increased spending due to \$5,000 budgeted for landscaping the green spaces this year.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. The motion passed.

Constable Patrol

Angela Dickson, new director of the Constable Patrol, reported that Sec. 1 participation in the Constable Patrol is approximately 50%. Section 1A's participation is approximately 20%. There are two ways to pay this year. #1 \$200 due May 15th. #2 \$100 due May 15th and November 1st. The cost per household can be lowered with more participation. The constable program needs block captains to help with participation and communications.

Other Committee Reports

Garden Oaks Elementary School Jane Ann Roberts reported that people camped out for the Montessori program again this year. All slots are filled. A new classroom will be added next year. The Friends of Montessori program needs a professional fund-raiser to raise \$40,000 - \$50,000 next year. Parents have raised over \$100,000 so far, but can not continue the level of effort necessary to raise those sorts of funds. Anyone with fund-raiser recommendations should contact Jane Ann Roberts. An Ice Cream Social will be held in the Spark Park April 14th. Sponsors include the PTA and Friends of Montessori. A Cinco de Mayo Celebration will be held May 5th.

GO-COPs

Carl Waters asked for volunteer patrollers to patrol for one hour per week. There are only ten active patrollers for all five sections of Garden Oaks right now. These people were on the streets 95 hours in February. A question about cell phone grants was asked. Carl said he would check into it, and also said the base station is for the safety of the patrollers. The base station is on from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

Beautification

Misty Jones asked for people who live near green spaces to call her. She will speak with the officers of the Civic Club to discuss their ideas also.

It was brought up that the rest of the sections (other than Sec., 1 and Sec. 1A) need block captains to increase Civic Club membership and turnout.

May meeting's Speaker will be Councilwoman Helen Huey.

Garden Oaks Plaza (subdivision off 43rd St. and Sue Barnett) donated \$250 to GO-COP and \$100 to the *Gazette*.

Beautification Challenge Mark Neff has offered to match \$500 for beautification funds raised. Terry Jeanes and ReMax Realtors have matched the challenge. This means that \$500 dollars donated will really be \$1,500.

The April speaker was Susan Grant, who is opening a financial planning office in the Garden Oaks shopping center. Susan grew up in Oak Forest and attended Waltrip H.S. Her company, Edward Jones, has 3,200 offices in neighborhoods across the U.S.

Refreshments were provided by Suzanne Debien, Henry S. Miller Realtors.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Sievers, Garden Oaks Civic Club secretary.

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB

P.O. Box 92155 Hou., TX 77206

Ed de Alba, President

858 Lamonte Ln. 694-5934

Craig Lee, V.P. Membership

212 W. 34th St. 802-0079

Alex Martinez, 2nd V.P. Editor

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Ray Housley, Treasurer

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Carl Waters 864-1992

Constable Program:

Deputy, Dick Matthias

Angela Dickson 802-0817

Education Liaison:

Jane Ann Roberts 861-8512

Friends of Montessori

Jane Ann Roberts 861-8512

Garden Club:

Janice Walden 869-6534

Hospitality & Refreshments:

Terry Jeanes 680-8550

Neighborhoods to Standard:

Rich & Rebecca Stark 691-1067

Neighborhood Traffic Program:

Marc Roberts 861-8512

Plant Co-op:

Anne Kilgore 697-0069

Programs:

Deborah Cartwright 697-1624

Recycling:

Gilbert King 523-5874

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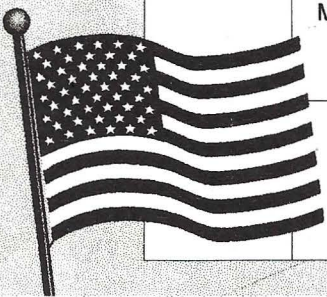
Section Five

Vee Gaines 686-5042

Ria McElvaney 682-6707



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat																																																																																																															
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5	6	7 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 PM	8	9 Garden Club Meeting 6:00 PM	10 Gazette Deadline	11 Recycle Drop-Off 8 AM-11 AM																																																																																																															
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16 Positive Interaction Program 7:00 PM	17	18																																																																																																															
19	20	21 Heavy Trash Pick-Up	22	23	24	25																																																																																																															
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																
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GILL GREENHOUSES

(1-888/292-1929)

Our bedding plants are of the highest quality, guaranteed satisfaction. We will bring the plants to you for your selection.

We have at this time -

Impatiens - Red, White, Coral

Petunias - Peach ice, Hot pink

Begonias - White, Pink, Rose

Vinca - Deep Rose

By April 1 or sooner - .

Portulaca (rose moss) - peppermint

Impatiens - Pink

Salvia - Red

Vinca - Mixed

Snapdragons - Scarlet

Coleus - Wizard Mixed

Geraniums - Red

By May 15 or sooner -

Vinca - Pink

Portulaca (rose moss) - Sundial Mixed

Marigold - Inca Yellow

Dianthus - Telstar Mix

Coleus - Wizard Mix

Begonias - Cocktail Vodka (Scarlet)

All these are \$10.00 per flat (20 4" pots per flat) delivered.

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING BUSINESS
WITH YOU!**