

## **National Garden Week Report** **June 6 - 12, 1999**

The Council of Barrington Garden Clubs celebrated National Garden Week with several new activities. Jill Hidding of Countryside Garden Class was the Chairman and Shirley Irwin of Garden Club of Barrington was Assistant Chairman.

A committee of representatives from each of the clubs met twice during the year to plan the activities. A proposed list of activities was presented to Council at the November 11 meeting and all activities were approved.

In April, a check for \$100 was sent to each of the new schools, Barbara B. Rose and North Barrington, to help them with their planting. This was done before National Garden Week so that the money could be used for purchasing plant material for the children to plant during Habitat Day at North Barrington School.

On Monday, June 7, four pink Azalea plants were selected at Jewel to be donated for the reception desks at Good Shepherd Manor, Governor's Park, the Barrington Area Library and the Barrington Park District. A card containing a photograph of the Gazebo planting in downtown Barrington and taken by local resident Bob Lee, was included with each plant donated. The plants were distributed that morning and were very much appreciated.

The banner announcing National Garden Week was hung in the center of town by the Barrington Public Works. The village sign located by the railroad tracks on Main Street announced the seed give-a-way at Jewel on June 10.

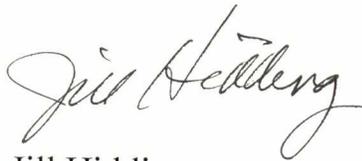
The Barrington Courier-Review mentioned the seed give-a-way in the Peek at the Week section of the June 3 and June 10 issues.

Representatives from each club took turns manning information tables and handing out free seeds to the community at Jewel on Thursday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The seed packets each had a label applied that stated "Compliments of Council of Barrington Garden Clubs...Blooming in Barrington since 1959" in green ink which also included the new Council logo. Information available included Botanic Garden information, CFC common handouts and various publications from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. A table was located at each exit door. It was interesting to see how each volunteer approached their task. Some made mini packets of seeds and a couple pieces of literature and handing them to everyone who came through the door, others asked if they would like free seeds or any information. The community was very receptive and those who had specific gardening questions or concerns were thrilled to walk away with

printed answers. Several people loved digging through the baskets of seeds to find some new plants to try. The kids were enthusiastic to get something and many families and outdoor adventure types found information on parks and services in Illinois to explore. Several people did ask about the various garden clubs in Barrington and a couple left their name, wishing to be invited to join a garden club. It was helpful to have a brochure made explaining the Council of Barrington Garden Clubs and almost all 50 were passed out. A couple hundred seed packets were also given away plus many pieces of literature. An exact count was not possible.

When visiting the Barrington Village Hall, I learned that the <sup>Shooting Star</sup> Marigold is the Village flower. Perhaps this can be incorporated into next years National Garden Week event.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jill Hidding  
Countryside Garden Class  
1999 National Garden Week Chairman