

The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



July/August, 2024

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy....” Hope your summertime has been good and full of family, friends, flowers, and fun. Some of our members have been traveling and have shared pictures of their adventures. Some have enjoyed being with family and grandchildren...what a joy. Some have continued working in their home gardens and have shared pictures of their plants and garden critters. And some of our members have been faithfully tending our garden club gardens around town...keeping them watered and always and forever pulling weeds.

Hope you enjoy the pictures and articles in this edition about summertime with your friends and fellow garden club members.





Ladies,

Thank you for giving your time watering at the courthouse this year. It was challenging for sure from an early freeze to blistering hot temperatures. But we made it.

Fall is approaching and we will be planting fall flowers very soon. Next month everyone will need to sign up again (I hope) for the next year. I will

have a sign-up sheet at the September meeting. If it's not too much to ask, can those watering this month water the first week of September? That would be appreciated to get thru the transition.

We have 9 people who are doing the watering for 36 weeks. Some are signing up for 3 or more months. That's asking a lot of our membership. We are considering cutting back to two days a week during the cooler months. But we need more volunteers. Please help encourage your cohorts to help us with this project.

God bless you and let me know what I can do to help make your commitment easier.

However, I can't make it rain. 😊

Debbie

Deborah "Debbie" Braden
Blue Bonnet Master Gardener
214-794-3806
Dbradencgc@yahoo.com

Our trusty treasurer, Patti Schindler, says we are doing great!

Operating Account - \$19,704.70

Discretionary Account - \$8,994.84



Columbus Trash Off Days - Wrap Up Report

Columbus Garden Club has a long history with clean-up events. “Don’t Be a Litter Bug” was wildly popular in the 1950’s and 60’s, and Columbus Garden Club was leading the way in Columbus with the Litter Bug campaign in 1957.

Sixty-seven years later, the annual Columbus Trash Off Days 2024 event kicked off in February with a presentation to Columbus City Council and a request for support. Council approved funding for all disposal fees for large items collected, free limb chipping, and manpower for the event.

The annual Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliate and Recognition Report for Keep Columbus Beautiful/Columbus Garden Club was completed in March. Annual dues were paid. A virtual conference with Keep Texas Beautiful was attended in May to fulfill our affiliate requirements for Keep Columbus Beautiful. Keep Columbus Beautiful is currently an affiliate in good standing.

A CCIDC Grant for \$1800 (approved in October 2023) combined with the support from the City of Columbus are essential to the success of Columbus Trash Off Days. The grant funds of \$1800 were used for \$1444 in advertising. Additional expenditures of \$829.69 included safety vests, gloves, hand sanitizer, trash grabbers, bottled water, paper bags, and dues to Keep Texas Beautiful. In addition to the grant, donations provided funding.

A press release announcing the annual Trash Off Event in March kicked-off this year’s event. Weekly advertising in the newspapers followed combined with radio advertising to increase public awareness. Flyers were distributed to Columbus businesses and six large Trash-Off signs were placed at various locations in Columbus.

“Porch pick-ups” proved to be a popular means of distributing supplies to volunteers again this year. Supplies (gloves, safety vests, grabbers, hand sanitizer, and trash bags) were distributed to volunteers via “Porch Pick-ups”



from March 1 to May 31. Supplies were also distributed at the Columbus Visitor's Center on Saturday, April 6 during Trash-Off Day registration.

Local groups volunteered to help clean up Columbus again this year: A Better Columbus, Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Columbus Cub Scouts, Columbus Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, National Honor Society, First Church of the Nazarene, St. Paul Lutheran Church, and more. Local groups

continue to Adopt-a-Highway including: The Lions Club (F.M. 109) and Columbus Rotary Club (F.M. 806).

New to Trash-Off Day this year was the "Shred It Event" sponsored by Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Area citizens were invited to bring old paperwork and files to the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday morning to have their documents shredded on the spot.

Columbus citizens were also invited to bring large items for disposal to the City Maintenance Yard on Montezuma Street any day from Wednesday, April 3 to Saturday, April 6. The City of Columbus and Texas Disposal Systems provided 5 large roll off dumpsters for collection. Once again, all the dumpsters were filled to overflowing. An estimated 50,000 pounds of debris was collected.

The week after Trash Off Day the City of Columbus provided free curbside limb chipping for Columbus Citizens.

May 31 marked the official end of the annual Keep Columbus Beautiful/Columbus Garden Club spring clean-up campaign, paralleling the closing of the Keep Texas Beautiful spring clean-up campaign.

--Marian Schonenberg

AWARD WINNERS



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Proudly presents this

Certificate in Appreciation of award participation to:

MAE-2a Social Media/Website

Columbus Garden Club

Texas

Congratulations to Cheryl Rose and Wanda Anglin. Thank you for all you do for Columbus Garden Club to keep us and our community informed about garden club activities.

We have many winners in our garden club and we are fortunate to have such dedicated women. In fact, each member is important and special in all they do for our club. We hope each one feels our appreciation and love.

In last June's Newsletter Wanda Anglin was featured as having earned her **Texas Master Naturalist Certification**. Now, we saw in the recent Dist. IV Newsletter that Nancy Galloway has received certification through the National Wildlife Federation as a **Certified Monarch Stewart**. In 2021 she also became a certified Texas Master Gardener. This goal took more than 2 ½ years to achieve. Classes were online and also in person.

Let us know if you receive certification in gardening, nature or in wildlife. We would like to celebrate your accomplishments too.

Congratulations

Sprout to Share Free Seed Library Launches in August



Columbus Garden Club member, Wanda Anglin, and Bernardo resident, Amanda Eschete, have been teaming up with other locals including Brenda Wyman of our club to bring the community seed library to life. The library is now full of veggie, herb, and companion flower seeds and the forms and processes all ready. The library is almost ready to provide free seeds and gardening information to citizens of Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, and Wharton Counties.

The image shown is the library as it will be on opening day (a sneak peek pic taken when Wanda set up the library at Create Space Studio to create a video about how to check out seeds).

A seed exchange event will kick off the opening of the seed library at 10:30am on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at the library's location inside Create Space Studio at 719 Walnut St, Columbus, TX. Registration is required by August 21st. The event will include the unveiling of the library, a brief talk on fall garden planting, and a seed exchange. You are encouraged to bring seeds, but those without seeds can participate due to generous donations of seeds by Stacy Renner of Take Root, Facebook group coordinator of Free Heirloom Seeds Group, and national seed companies, Baker Heirloom Seeds and Burpee.

Learn more (all forms are currently available at the library space inside Create Space Studio):

- Seed Exchange and Library Opening Event Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/exchange-rsvp>
- Donate Seeds:
 - Seed Saving Guide: <https://tinyurl.com/seed-saving-guide>
 - Seed Donation Form: <https://tinyurl.com/seed-donate-form>
- Join the public Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sprouttoshare/>.

The library team is currently organizing seed stewards to regularly process seed donations and place them into the library.

In addition to creating the library, stocking it, and making it operational, the team has been chatting with local 501c3 organizations to be adopted. This will enable the library to have a more robust pool of volunteers to ensure its longevity as well as to be able to seek grants and be more easily publicized across the 5 counties. The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners Association is in the process of finalizing adoption of the library project over the next few months. This is very exciting news for the seed library and a feather in Colorado County and Columbus' cap to be the host of a 5-county wide seed library.

----Wanda Anglin

Can Youth in the Garden Help Your Project?



Bren Wyman and Wanda Anglin invite you to consider if our Youth in the Garden student volunteers can help with your project.

Keep in mind that these students are busy during school days, but may have the ability to help late afternoons, early evenings, or on Saturdays. Last year, the students volunteered more than 73 hours of their time to weed and mulch our community gardens, set up the flower show, participate in

Trash Off, and work the Plant & Bake Sale. The students are excellent helpers and very fun to get to know them!

The students earn service hours for the National Honor Society, Cardinals in Action, and other organizations that help them with their college applications and scholarship opportunities.

If you think you have an opportunity for Youth in the Garden, please let Bren or Wanda know at least 2 weeks in advance. This time is required to put together a little flyer about the opportunity to send to the Columbus High School coordinator to send out to the students. The students then use the QR code or link on the flyer to visit a Sheet on our Google Drive to sign up to volunteer. You are provided the students' contact information so you can communicate with them if something changes such as meeting location or time for your event.

Keep Youth in the Garden in mind as these youthful spirits and bodies are fun to work with and make the work easier!
--Wanda Anglin

SHARING YOUR GARDEN

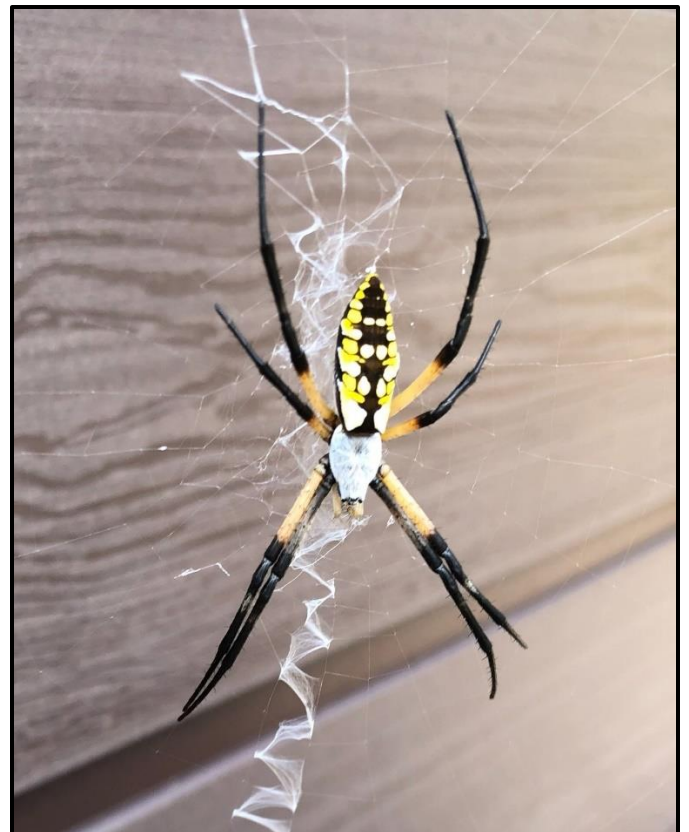


Happy sun flowers and lantana are shared by Janet Johnson. On the right is one of her beautiful red Texas hibiscuses.

Janet also shared pictures of some of the “critters” in her yard.



A praying mantis (on left) and a Gulf Fritillary caterpillar on the right. Below is a Gulf Fritillary butterfly and.....



a banana spider is weaving a web.



When Wanda Anglin came back from traveling this summer to Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland (and more) she found these wonderful peppers were growing just fine in her garden.

Sharon Roensch has picked the last of her okra. She has been fixing okra and tomato, okra gumbo, fried okra, and has discovered roasted okra. And she shared some with Velma Harrington and other neighbors too.

She shared a recipe for roasted okra and here it is:

Sharon Roensch's Roasted Okra

Select okra that is 4" or more and tender. Cut off end and slice okra in half horizontally.

Coat with olive oil and place cut side down on a cookie sheet lined with foil.



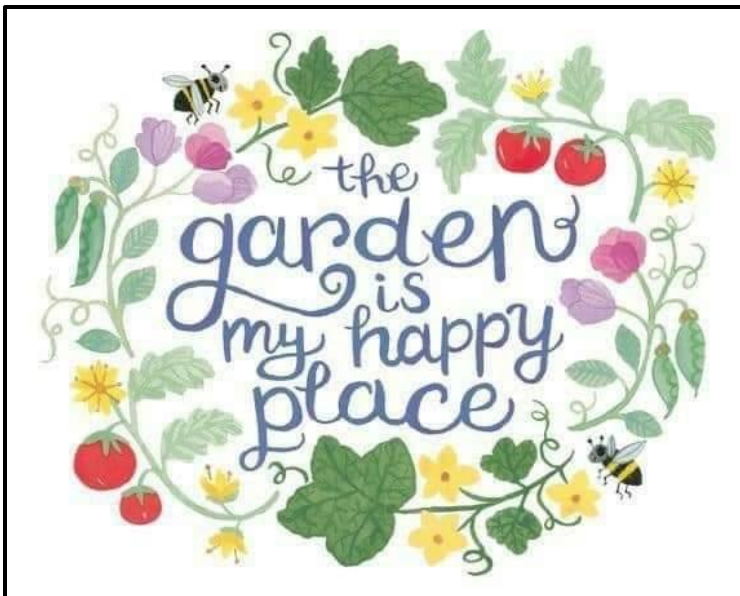
Sprinkle with your favorite seasoning.
Bake in oven at 400 deg. For 20 to 30 minutes.
Enjoy!

(left) Nancy Galloway shared a picture of two Inca doves enjoying her bird bath.

George and I enjoy watching our birds come to a bird bath out where we sit underneath the crepe myrtle trees. We see cardinals and small finches of some kind...don't know what they are.



Velma Harrington shared this picture of **Nighttime in My Garden.**



Garden Club members have been traveling this summer.

Patti Schindler vacationed in Cozumel and Nassau Bay, Bahamas; Ann Pavliska went to Hawaii.....and Wanda and husband Frank took a trip to Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, St. Pierre, and Miquelon. I will include some pictures in September's newsletter of their adventures. It looks like there were some wonderful travels. If you have pictures of your summer travels send one or two to me

and I will include them in **next month's newsletter.** [We celebrate your wonderful excursions.](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

2024

August 2024:

26-27th National Garden Club Gardening School @San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio, Tx

September 2024:

13th Houston Federation Regular meeting, 10 a.m.

16-17th Landscape Design School – Series 27, Course 3, @George Bush Presidential Library, College Station, Tx

16-19th Flower Show School III, Jewish Community Center, Houston, Tx., Chairman: Regena Williamson, 361-550-14;85

19th NGC Fall Foard Meeting

27-29th Environmental School Course III: “AIR” @ Fort Parker State Park, Mexia, Tx., Chairman: Sarah McReynolds

October 2024:

11th Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.

22-23rd TGC, Inc. Fall Board Meeting @ TGC, Inc. Headquarters Building, Ft. Worth, Tx.

November 2024:

1st ...AWARDS DUE...

8th Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. **Arbor Day Celebration**

December 2024:

13th Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.

2025

January 2025:

10th Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.

17th-19th Environmental School – Course 4, Contact: Sarah McReynolds @ esarabeth@aol.com

February 2025:

14th Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.

March 2025:

14th Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 20 a.m.

27th District IV Spring Convention, hosted by League City Garden Club – See ad in District IV (August 24) Newsletter – 9a.m.- 2p.m, Johnny Arolfo Ballroom, 400 W. Walker, League City, Tx.

April 2025:

- 1st-4th TGC Inc. Spring Convention, Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, Palestine, Tx.
11th Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.
14th-15th South Central State Spring Convention, Albuquerque, NM
16th-17th South-Central Region Spring Convention, Albuquerque, NM

May 2025:

- 9th Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.

June 2025:

- 2nd National Garden Week

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs regular meetings are held the second Friday, September through May with the “social hour” beginning at 10-10:30 a.m. Dates are as follows:

- Sept. 13, 2024
- Oct. 11, 2024
- Nov. 8, 2024
- Dec. 13, 2024
- Jan 10, 2025
- Feb. 14, 2025
- Mar. 14, 2025
- Apr. 11, 2025
- May 9, 2025



Let us know how you are gardening and include pictures of your plants and gardens. If you are on facebook you can chat with other garden club members, share pictures, ideas, memes, club activities and other fun stuff on the new **private group site** that is “up and going” thanks to Wanda Anglin. Just look up on facebook, Columbus Garden Club Private Group. This is a group seen only by CGC members. If you have problems finding the private group you can contact Wanda at 713-628-6545. Also, follow our public page: fb.me/columbusgardenclubtx. Or, you can always text me (Velma) at 979-253-0055 or email velma.george07@gmail.com

Joys, Love and Concerns

So that we can better communicate and express our love and concern for each other, if you know of a **garden club member or family of a garden club member who is ill or has had a death in the family** please contact:

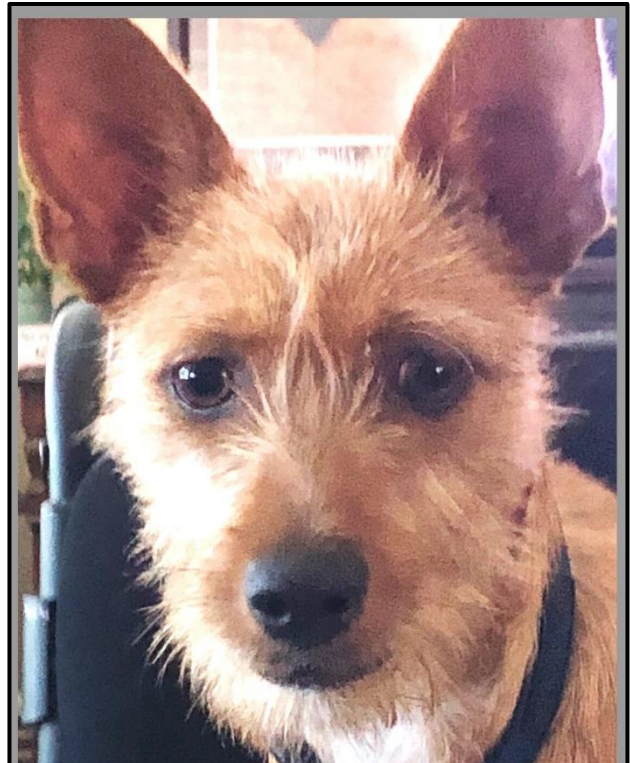
Janet Johnson – She will notify the appropriate members to communicate with the club.

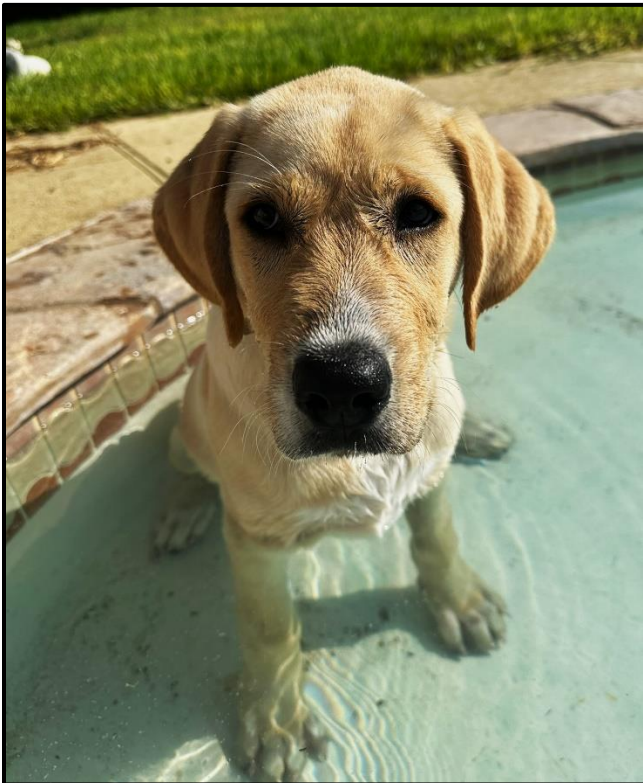
Cheryl Rose – She is person in charge of notifying the club.

Please keep in your prayers **Chaney Gregory** as she adjusts to her new home, **Nancy Galloway's** daughter as she has tests, Jennie's granddaughter Adlie who has double ear infection, Bonnie Halkett, and Joann Sebesta. God bless you and be with you as you heal.

Share your Good News, Love and Joys. Send information and pictures to **Velma Harrington** at 979-253-0055 or email velma.george07@gmail.com to include in our newsletter.

Jennie Pritchett enjoyed her grandchildren this summer. Dallas is 4 years old and Adlie is 7 months. They spent a week with "Grammie". Janet Johnson shared a picture of Tucker (right) who is 7 months old and is adding excitement to the household of Janet and Keith and also to Ember Rose's very happy life.





(Left) This is Molly, Jennie Pritchett's puppy. She is 4 months old.



This turtle critter (right) was found on facebook. Wouldn't that be cute, cute, cute to make and have in your garden? Oh, I think so!

It's time to celebrate July and August Birthdays:



July

- 13 Velma Harrington
- 23 Marian Schonenberg
- 30 Brenda Boehm
- 31 Ann Pavliska

August

- 04 Patsy Hodge
- 06 Martha Jordan
- 10 Brenda Wyman
- 31 Chris Schobel

Yard of the Month - July

Home of:

Mike and Stacy Griffin

426 Front Street

Their yard is beautiful with periwinkles, salvias, fire cracker bush, lantanas, roses, and many other plants.

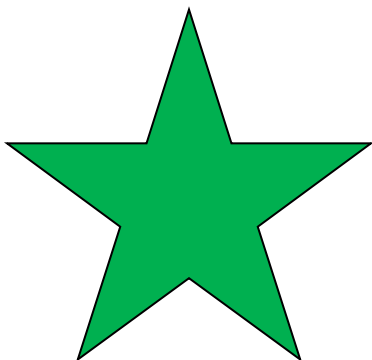
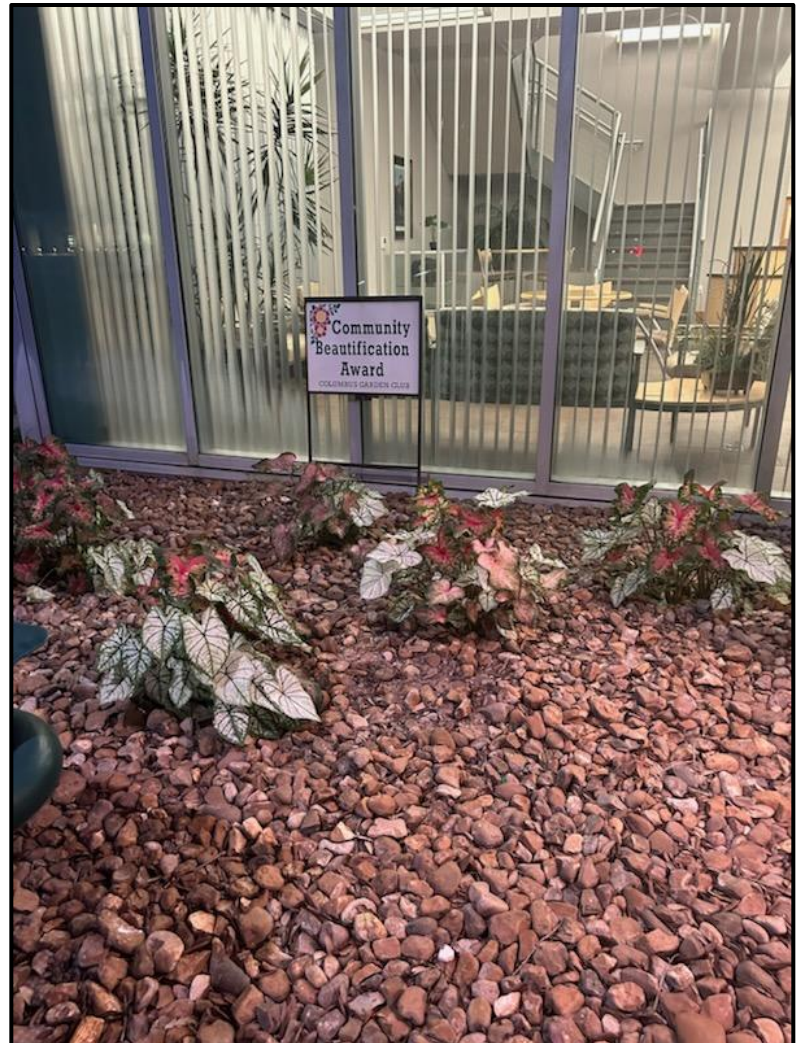


Community Beautification Award - July

Columbus Community Hospital

110 Shult Dr.

In front of the hospital are beautiful pink roses and caladiums.



Yard of the Month - August

Home of: Zack and Amy Venghaus
617 Milam Street

In the front yard are beds with red sage, marigolds, periwinkles, and zinnias and many other plants.



Community Beautification Award - August

Grand Oaks Antiques and Gifts
1034 Milam Street

In front of the building is a beautiful flower box with different kinds of coleuses and ferns.



Velma Harrington – Editor of Newsletter