

Johnston greenhouse already selling some of its thousands of bedding plants

by EMERY BUBANY
Advance editor

Ron and Ann Borwick, Roger Bishop and their employees at the Piney Ridge Greenhouse, Johnston, are already selling beautiful, lush impatiens, geraniums, petunias and other plants as residents are gearing up for spring plantings.

The greenhouse has no less than 100,000 impatiens plants for sale along with 50,000 petunias and about 10,000 geraniums. Impatiens have become more popular lately, Ron Borwick said,

because they are hardy and will grow well in shady areas.

Those who want to put out geraniums now need to be willing to cover them at night if the temperatures get below freezing, Ron said. The safe date for full blown planting is May 10, he added.

The greenhouse, located on N.W. 51st Street near N.W. 62nd Avenue, is actually a complex of six greenhouses, all built over the past 19 years by the Borwicks and Bishop on three and a half acres that the Borwicks bought back in the fall of 1974.

As business expanded, the greenhouses were built, one by one. Their sixth greenhouse, just recently built, is three times larger than any of the rest, and like the rest, is full of bedding plants.

Back in January and February when it was furiously cold and the ground was covered with ice and snow, the Borwicks and their employees were planting and caring for the tiny seedlings that were all planted in thousands of plastic containers by hand.

For most of their years in business, the Borwicks sold their

springtime plants on only a wholesale basis to many businesses in the Des Moines area. They've never advertised, Ron said, but business grew by word of mouth.

They also sell vegetable plants and Ann said, "We probably have the best selection of tomato and pepper plants in the metro area." They sell just the plants but no seeds.

In recent years, they have been selling many plants on a retail basis, and with their big wholesale business, every spring has been a sell-out.

Bishop, a chemist who works for the state, had the original idea to create a greenhouse back in the early days and went into partnership with the Borwicks. In the early years, Ron said, they raised

house plants but that went sour and the effort was switched to spring plantings only.

The greenhouses were all built by the Borwicks and Bishop with the aluminum framework purchased from a manufacturer. They are covered with large sheets of clear, heavy-duty plastic that are clamped in place.

The new greenhouse has a special vent that runs along the top of the roof that opens and closes by a blower being operated or shut off.

The strength of the greenhouses had a severe test the night of April 14 when powerful winds accompanying a storm moved through the metro area. Hail

Greenhouse

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GREENHOUSE KEEPERS

Roger Bishop, Ann Borwick and Ron Borwick stand among the many bedding plants they have for sale at the Piney Ridge Greenhouse, Johnston. Sales of the plants have already started

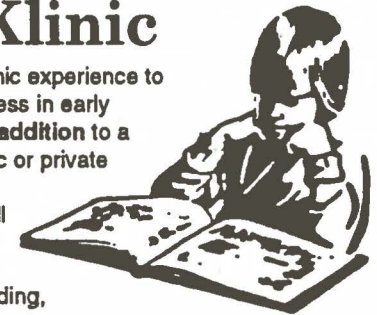
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Greenhouse

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punctured a few holes in the plastic but they were easily repaired.

The Borwicks have plants of

nearly every kind of vegetable, annuals and perennials that residents would want. Perennials have become more popular in recent years and even young couples with new homes are making

flower beds to accommodate the yearly growing flowers.

The Borwicks, who have just observed their 20th wedding anniversary, work together each day at the business. They had no formal horticultural training and

learned about their plants from books and by asking questions of other greenhouse operators.

Ron graduated from Drake University, Des Moines, with a business degree but wanted to do something "with his hands." He

and his wife both love nature and enjoyed growing plants, so the business seemed natural. Once things started going well, Ron quit his full-time job and devoted the time to the greenhouse.

As one employee said, the facility of the greenhouses and all the beautiful plants is "one of the best kept secrets" in Johnston.

"Enter His Gates" to be performed by Meredith Drive Reformed Church soon

"Enter His Gates," a praise musical, will be presented on Sunday, May 1, at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., by the Sanctuary Choir of Meredith Drive Reformed Church, 5128 Meredith Drive, Des Moines.

"Enter His Gates" is an expression of praise, involving choir and congregation in active worship and ministry. The congregation will be led in praise and singing by the choir and orchestra.

JOHNSTON LEGALS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
CITY OF JOHNSTON
NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
JOHNSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT ON THE PROPOSED
ISSUANCE OF IN ONE OR MORE
SERIES OF NOT TO EXCEED
\$3,035,000 ANTICIPATORY
WARRANTS FOR THE FISCAL
YEAR 1995

APRIL 25, 1994, 7:25 P.M.
PUBLIC NOTICE is given that the Board of Directors of JOHNSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public hearing April 25, 1994, at 7:25 o'clock P.M., in the Administration Building, Johnston, Iowa, at which meeting the board proposes to take action for the authorization of the issuance in one or more series of not to exceed \$3,035,000 Anticipatory Warrants to cover anticipated cash flow deficiencies during the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1995.

At the hearing the Board will receive oral or written objections from any resident or property owner of the School Corporation to the above action. After all objections

CITY OF JOHNSTON PROCLAMATION NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The Johnston Public Library is an important part of our community as it contributes to our personal growth, education, and understanding of our world through its expanding collection and services.

In recognition of this significance, the week of April 18-23, 1994, will be named "National Library Week" in Johnston. All citizens are invited to attend a special presentation on British current affairs, Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. I encourage all Johnston residents to use this week to become more familiar with and to patronize our local library at 6221 Merle Hay Road.

John R. VerHoef, Mayor of Johnston
4/9/94

Johnston Library Lore

Johnston - 6221 Merle Hay Road

ATTENTION CRAFTERS!

Available now in the periodical section of the Johnston Public Library is *Crafts 'n Things*, a publication that features more than a dozen different projects each month. Those projects include paper, wood, ribbon, fabric and cross-stitching ideas. There are also articles on knitting, crocheting, quilting and jewelry projects. The magazine also offers craft ideas just for kids. Please stop in and see this magazine for some new craft ideas!

SHAKESPEARE

For those who think that Shakespeare is too difficult for them, the Johnston Public Library now has *Shakespeare Made Easy*. These individual volumes include Shakespeare's major works with the original text laid out side-by-side with a full modern translation. These volumes are great for pleasure reading or studying for exams.

JOB HUNTING?

Those who may be looking for jobs or who are doing some career planning will want to look over the new annual sources available for the State of Iowa. These include *Iowa Statewide Wage Survey*, *Iowa Occupational Planning Guide* and the *State of Iowa Condition of Employment*.

GARDENING TIME

For those gardeners who are already in their gardens or who are seriously thinking about garden plans for this year, the library has a collection of books that might be of help to you.

Whether your interests are flowers, vegetables or landscaping, you'll find some helpful books. There's *Jerry Baker's Flower Garden*, *Rodale's Flower Garden Problem Solver*, *Jules Oravetz's Gardening, Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance* and *Fix-it-Yourself Lawn and Garden*. *Ortho's Complete Guide to Successful Gardening* is also a good source.

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