

THE GOOD GARDENS

The entire landscape at the Orvosh home at 1719 Colonial Drive is noted for its manicured and sculpted plantings, tailored islands sprinkled throughout the property, each a garden in its own right. The property is a 'garden of gardens'.

Along the entire front, spilling into the entryway and along both sides of the home, are groupings of potted and planted flowers and shrubs selected for color and texture. The driveway is not off-limits, and its boundaries are defined by more explosions of color and life.

"Gardening is something you have to enjoy because it takes a lot of time and effort," Shirley says. "Unfortunately, you must also be willing to get your hands dirty and sweat a lot in our oppressive summer heat. Gardening also is an excellent way to reduce stress by communing with God's great outdoors and it is much better than doing laundry or housework!"

Son PJ is the family 'Master Hacker', called on when woody surgery is needed. Like the time he



waded into a towering *Viburnum* alongside the driveway with a Sawzall, and notched it from crown to ground, which Paul gravelled, and Shirley populated with large pots of flowers. The result softens and brightens an otherwise featureless boundary.

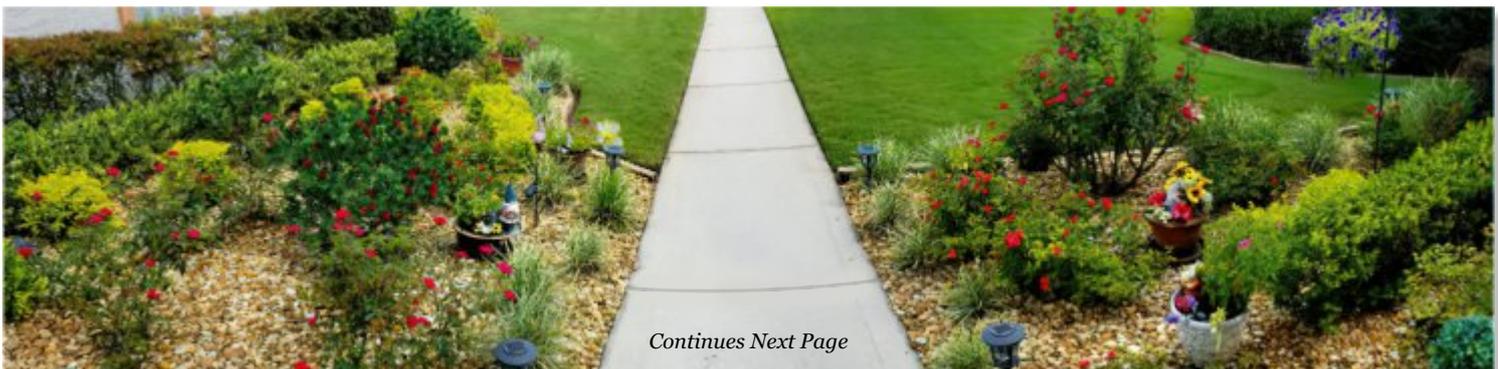
Shirley goes to great lengths. Literally, hauling a considerable span of hose to the road to water the potted flowers there.

And one thing you notice: *everything* is healthy. No sorry blooms or ragged leaves. And I dare you to find a clipping, or wait for it...*a single weed!*

SHIRLEY & PAUL ORVOSH



HIBISCUS



Continues Next Page



THE GOOD GARDENS

When did you first plant your garden?

It developed over the years. We have lived in our house for 20 years and I didn't like then original plants (there was no color) so I gradually changed everything.

Did you have one growing up? What was it like?

My family had a very large vegetable garden. My father had a greenhouse and grew plants from seed. The pleasant memories of that still linger in my mind.

What was your first gardening "success"?

I have to say my Roses the centerpiece of my garden. Also along with the many deer we have in the neighborhood I have had good luck with hibiscus plants (they are now in pots inside my pool enclosure).

What do you enjoy most about your garden?

COLOR! I enjoy all the colors and changing them in accordance with the season.

What are your plans or ideas for it?

My husband, Paul and I recently planned and planted a new garden where an ugly electric box was removed and I believe it has changed the street view of our yard by beautifying that spot.

How do you decide what you are going to grow?

Usually it's dictated by the season. I do like potted annuals because of their flexibility, and I attempt to use flowers that attract humming birds, butterflies and bees.



Where do you buy or find your seeds and plants?

Mainly at the usual places nearby; wherever I get not only the best value but the best price.

What advice would you give someone planning a garden?

Be prepared to give them a lots of tender loving care and plenty of water. Also, fertilize often and use weed preventive products. When I have a new planting area I also use landscaping paper under stones or mulch.

Photos: Editor, Shirley by Paul

