



JUST ASKING

BY MARY KLEST

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSAN MCCONNELL

What's the most popular flower arrangement sold in Barrington for Mother's Day?

We asked Liz Bremner, owner of the Fresh Flower Market on Main Street, and Glen Egeland, owner of the Barrington Flower Shop on Cook Street.

"A mixed spring bouquet with seasonal, pastel-colored flowers such as phlox, lilies, or tulips is a popular choice," says Liz. "Red or pink roses are also a favorite." Glen agrees and adds iris to the list. Liz buys her roses from South America, bulbs from Holland, orchids from New Zealand, and other varieties from Kenya, Central America, and California. Some flowers come from as close by as Wisconsin and nearby farms. The days of guessing what might be appropriate for

a particular occasion or what a \$60 bouquet actually consists of are over. Today, we can see flower arrangements by price and occasion simply by visiting florists' web sites. You can go to a web site and search by price range, color, and flower. Suggestions for occasions like birthdays, thank yous, and "just because" are easy to browse through.

"People can customize the look," says Liz. For example, if you see a vase that you like, you can request it for your flower arrangement. You can also find tips on the web site

for how to care for your flowers once you get them. Glen says that 70 percent of his orders come via the telephone. But many people still enjoy visiting the flower shops – both stores get a lot of walk-in traffic.

The smell of fresh-cut flowers is welcoming. Susan's photo above shows an antique iron garden bench and baker's table surrounded by flowers coordinated in color blocks at the Fresh Flower Market. Customers cradle the flowers in their arms, practice extending their hands, and smile with their eyes.

Why do women like receiving flowers? A study at Rutgers University says receiving flowers and being in the presence of flowers lifts the spirit. A Harvard University study indicates that flowers make people feel more compassionate and less prone to anxiety and depression.

The florists say giving flowers shows that we care about another's well-being. Personally, I like the surprise factor. "Flowers are an extravagance," says Glen. "People appreciate their beauty because they don't last forever." Adds Liz, "Flowers make us happy."



New Tallgrass Community Opens in Lake Barrington

Public is invited to visit during grand opening on May 31–June 1

Kermit the Frog may have said, "It's not easy being green," but in Tallgrass, it is. This new, nature-friendly gated community in Lake Barrington will celebrate its grand opening on the weekend of May 31–June 1, and Michael J. Graft Builder has invited the public to attend the festivities. Two available model homes will be open for viewing. All guests may also enter to win a portrait taken by well-known Barrington photographer Thomas Balsamo.

The 109 acres of Tallgrass are a history-rich wilderness bracketed by forest preserves. As this pristine property is adapted for its 71 new home sites, care has been taken to safeguard its natural ambience. A comprehensive tree preservation and transplant plan includes thousands of new trees, including strategically and randomly located hardwoods, native plants, and thousands of yards of prairie grasses.

Water quality will be enhanced through a meticulously planned and revitalized wetland planting system. A privacy berm will host native Illinois prairie grasses, wildflowers, and trees. The resulting development has won the endorsement of both the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Sierra Club as a model for conservation-minded development. Additional information on Tallgrass and its grand opening can be found at www.Tallgrass-Info.com.