



JUST ASKING

BY MARY KLEST

What's the story behind Carol's Garden on Northwest Highway in Barrington?

I asked Cuba Township Supervisor David Nelson, who saw a problem and turned it into a sweet gesture.

Just south of Barrington's Public Safety Building is a little garden that offers a lovely view for passersby. Perennials fill the raised limestone wall bed and follow the meandering granite pathway up to a sign that reads Carol's Garden.

This plot of land wasn't a garden six years ago. The odd shaped parcel measuring 32 feet by 91 feet could not be developed for commercial or residential use. Neighbors described it as an eye sore. Nelson, who lived around the corner on Liberty Street at the time, had an idea. He asked the owner to give him a long-term lease on the property. He then made a request to his friend Dick Lamkey, co-owner of NILCO landscaping, to donate time and materials to create a garden named for his wife, Carol. "He might not do it for me,

but I knew he'd do it for Carol," he said. Then Nelson got approval through the village board to have the Village maintain it.

One night at dinner, Nelson and Lamkey rolled out the landscape plans for Carol to see. "It was a wonderful collaboration of people coming together to create a nice space," said Carol, who is an avid gardener. Known as a person of modest character, she remarked, "If I could change anything it would be the size of that sign." When asked by friends which Carol the sign refers to, she evokes her usual humor "I think it may be Carol Beese," who is a friend of hers, and in on the joke.

Special moments at the garden were had by Carol's now deceased father, who lived at Green Castle Apartments on Main Street. "We donated a bench to the site so that my father could walk over and sit there." She says when her two out-of-state children come home they always want to go see the garden. It's one of the places in Barrington to sit back and relax.

That's the story of how this garden got its name. The next time you walk or drive by there's no need to wonder: "Who's Carol?"



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