

## Farmer's Market

# Violets 'that just blossom their little heads off'

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

A woman who says she has had hobbies all of her life but never found one as enjoyable as raising African violets, will bring hundreds of the plants and dozens of the species to Farmington Community Center's Farmer's Market.

"It all started with a magazine article that told how to have flowers blooming in your home throughout the entire year," said Carol MacDonald, speaking from her dining room-turned-garden room.

The Highland Park resident owns between 2,000-3,000 plants, another 2,000-3,000 starters and she has no idea of how many species, though she suspects she could rival a greenhouse.

"I won't be bringing any plant to the market that you could easily find in a dime store and my prices are way below anything you'd find in a nursery," she said.

Mrs. MacDonald is putting some of her African violets up for sale because she is running out of space for the blossoms that fill every room, two porches

and the basement of her spacious home.

"It's the old African violet growers' lament," she said. "Give me more room."

MRS. MACDONALD is one of about 25 growers who will be on the grounds of Farmington Community Center from 9 a.m. to noon for 13 Saturdays beginning Aug. 2 forming the center's first Farmer's Market.

She learned about the new market from her sister, Betty Beausoleil, a resident of Farmington and a volunteer for the center.

Before this, she has sold her plants only at two shows sponsored by Border City African Violet Club, given during the past two springs.

Despite being a relatively newcomer to the club, she wound up the last sale as the club's top salesperson.

"That was probably because this hobby of mine has turned into a full-time job for me," she said. "I never counted, but I wouldn't be surprised to



Carol MacDonald (at left) will get help from her sister Betty Beausoleil when the two set up shop in the Farmington Community Center Farmer's Market to sell Mrs. MacDonald's African violets. The African

violet enthusiast advocates talking to the plants along with a little TLC to produce profuse blossoms.

learn that I put in more than 40 hours a week at it."

To bring a plant from a leaf to maturity costs her about \$1.50, she estimates. "But also an untold amount in electricity and untold hours of care. Then they blossom their little heads off for me," she said.

THE AFRICAN violet grower maintains the plant is a sturdy one and for good propagation all one has to do is follow the rules: lots of light, no sun,

light soil, regular feedings, the proper strength of fertilizer for the particular plant and no overwatering.

"Overwatering is the main cause of their death," he said.

Mrs. MacDonald talks to her "babies" and she advocates tender loving care as the best technique for producing the most blooms.

"I'll have some leaflets ready to hand out for the care of the various species," she said, "and anything that's left out I can pretty much answer. I

want the people who buy my babies to enjoy them and care for them."

Mrs. MacDonald will bring miniatures, standards, supremes and trailers to Farmer's Market along with "lots of variegates."

"I have some very unusual ones," she said. "The two-tone leaves make them much more than a green plant. The leaves are as pretty as the flowers."

She will also have a great many starters for sale, along with her favorite species, Shady Lady.

"I'm definitely attached to my Shady Ladies," she said.

Prices will range from \$1-45.

MRS. BEAUSOLEIL will join her sister in their flower booth at the market. And the two will join farmers and backyard gardeners with a variety of home-grown produce.

Homemade jellies and jams, honey, fresh eggs, herbs, fleece for spinning, homemade quilts with select and quality crafts also up for sale.



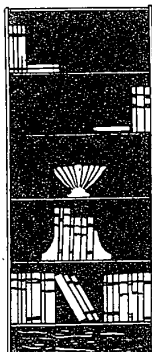
## Bawdy humor and poetic images

Outfitted in dress suitable to 15th century England, C.M. Novess II plays the role of Thomas Mendip, Mark Honeyman takes the role of Humphrey and Mike Frontczak the role of Nicholas in Farmington Players' production of "The Lady's Not For Burning." The play, which has been described as a combination of bawdy humor a la Shakespeare and beautiful poetic images, is a spoof of witch

hunts with plenty of action, medieval costuming and a fine cast. The play runs July 25-27 and Aug. 1-2 in the Players Barn on 12 Mile Road, between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads. Tickets at \$3 each are on sale now and are available by calling the Players Box Office, 477-1066. There is no reserved seating for the summer performances.

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