

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Beautification Committee
Telephone: (860) 585-4001
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Beautification Minutes

September 10, 2025

Vice-Chairwoman Diane Ciano called the September 10, 2025, Beautification Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Lounge at Plymouth Town Hall, 80 Main Street, Terryville, Connecticut.

Roll Call: Present were: Committee Member Jerry Milne, Vice-Chairwoman Diane Ciano, Committee Member Mary Semon, Beautification Committee Member Joanne Auburn and Committee Member David Perugini. Also present, Maureen Cappetto, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Fire Exit Notification:

Vice-Chairwoman Diane Ciano noted the fire exits.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vice-Chairwoman Diane Ciano led the Beautification Committee Members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Minutes:

A motion was made by Beautification Committee Member Jerry Milne, seconded by Beautification Committee Member David Perugini, to accept the June 11, 2025, minutes. This motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

a. Maureen Cappetto, Parks and Recreation Director - discuss Lanterns on Lake Winfield

Maureen Cappetto talked about Lanterns on Lake Winfield event, which is being held on Saturday, October 18th from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. This event is rain or shine. She is looking for volunteers to arrive at 4:30 PM. Please tell her your shirt size by October 1st. See attached flyer.

b. Discuss and take action to request the Director of Public Works to have a survey conducted of the operation of the 120 Volt outlets on the decorative lampposts on Main Street for proper operation as well as the lights, and request any repairs needed be completed prior to the hanging of the garland and bows this fall.

This will be tabled until next month.

c. Discuss and take action to inventory and inspect the garland for operation of lights and condition of the same, to identify the need to order additional lights and/or garland, bows, and mounting materials; and to request the purchase of any needed supplies through the Town or through local donations.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2025 SEP 15 AM 10:19
TOWN CLERK

Vice-Chairwoman Ciano stated she noticed garland is missing. There is \$1500.00 in the account.

Committee Member Mary Semon submitted requests to Public Works for the light posts to get fixed.

The Committee will meet on Sunday, September 14th at 7:00 PM at the corner of Maple Street to test each light post.

d. Discuss and take action to identify and recruit local individuals/organizations/businesses to sponsor and maintain the "Welcome to Plymouth" sign on Route 6 Plymouth/Thomaston town line.

Committee Member Jerry Milne pulled out all the mug warts. The Committee will plant flowers in the spring.

e. Discuss and take action to send a letter to the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Commission to urge its maintenance department to take more care in the upkeep of Veterans Memorial Playground in regards to mowing/trimming/weed control and fence repair in order to improve and maintain the beauty of the grounds and for the safety of children.

Maureen Cappelto will share this request with her Parks and Recreation Commission.

f. Discuss and take action to send a letter of request to the Zoning Enforcement Officer to crack down on the posting of illegal signage along the highways and intersections and upon utility poles through town.

No action will be taken on this request.

Old Business:

Planters – Vice-Chairwoman Diane Ciano stated the planters did really well. July was the worst month of the year. The water wheel planter did not do well.

Committee Member David Perugini would like a better plan going forward re: watering the planters and when others are on vacation.

Mikayla's Garden – Committee Member Mary Semon stated she needs to call the Petit Foundation to set up a photo op. The plaque cost \$50.00. She would like Parks and Recreation and the mayor in the picture.

Committee Member Mary Semon has already started harvesting seeds to give back to the foundation for them to resell and help further their mission. See attached photos and flyer.

A motion was made by Committee Member David Perugini, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman to reimburse Committee Member Mary Semon in the amount of \$50.00 for the Petit Foundation plaque. This motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Board Member Comments:

Committee Member Jerry Milne reported the gravestone cleaning was very successful. The Plymouth Historical Society website has a bunch of events listed for the fall. All of the events for America 250 are on the historical society website, as well.

Vice-Chairwoman Diane Ciano suggested having red, white and blue flowers for next year and flags at each planter.

Adjournment:

There being no further business of the Beautification Committee, Beautification Committee Member David Perugini made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Diane Ciano to adjourn. This motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Schnaars', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Linda Schnaars
Recording Secretary



Lanterns

on Lake Winfield

October 18
5 pm - 9 pm

*A festival full of community,
food, games, music and fun!*

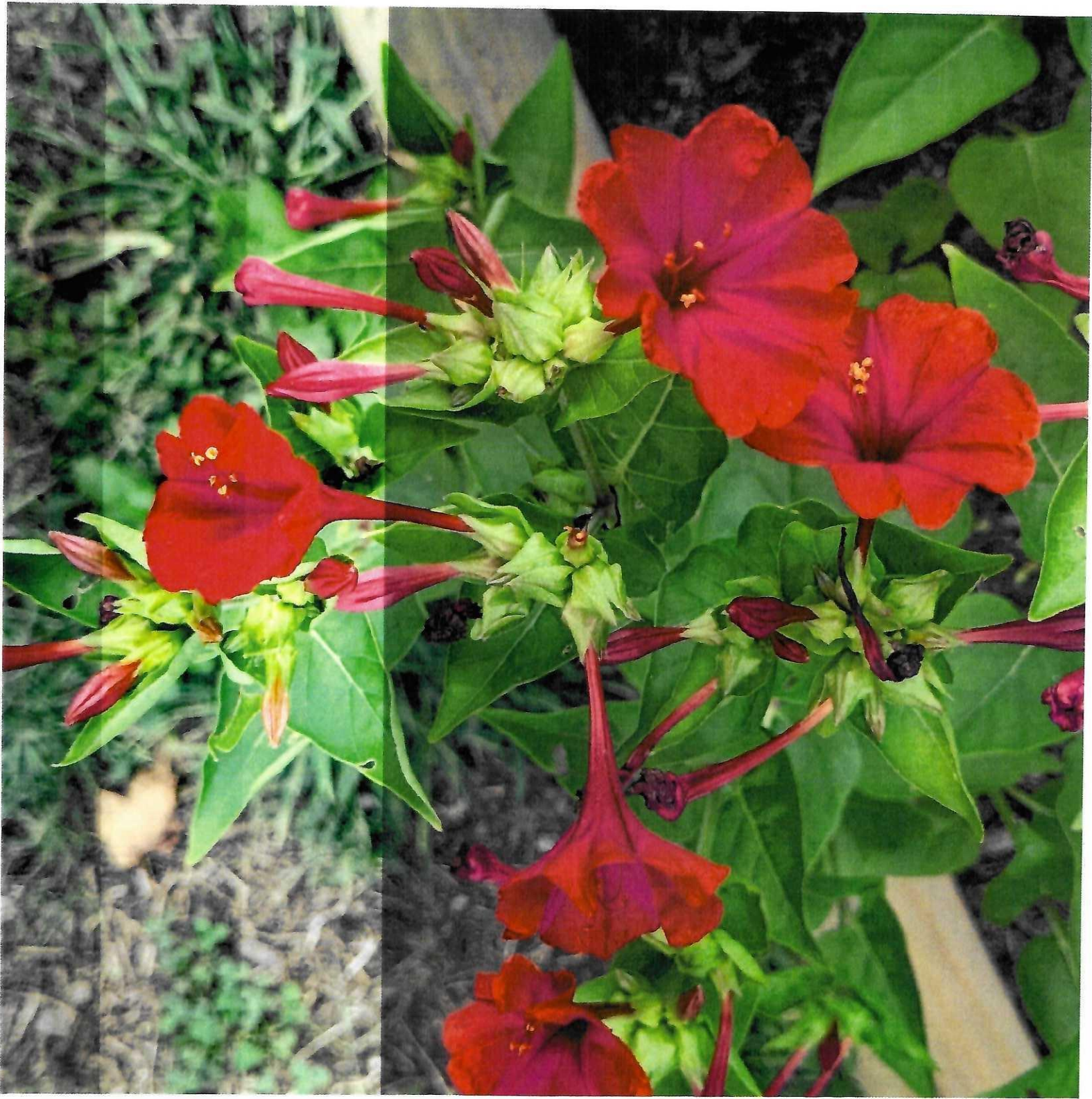
Parking at Terryville
High School
Shuttlebus to the park

Lanterns are
\$10 online
\$15 at the event



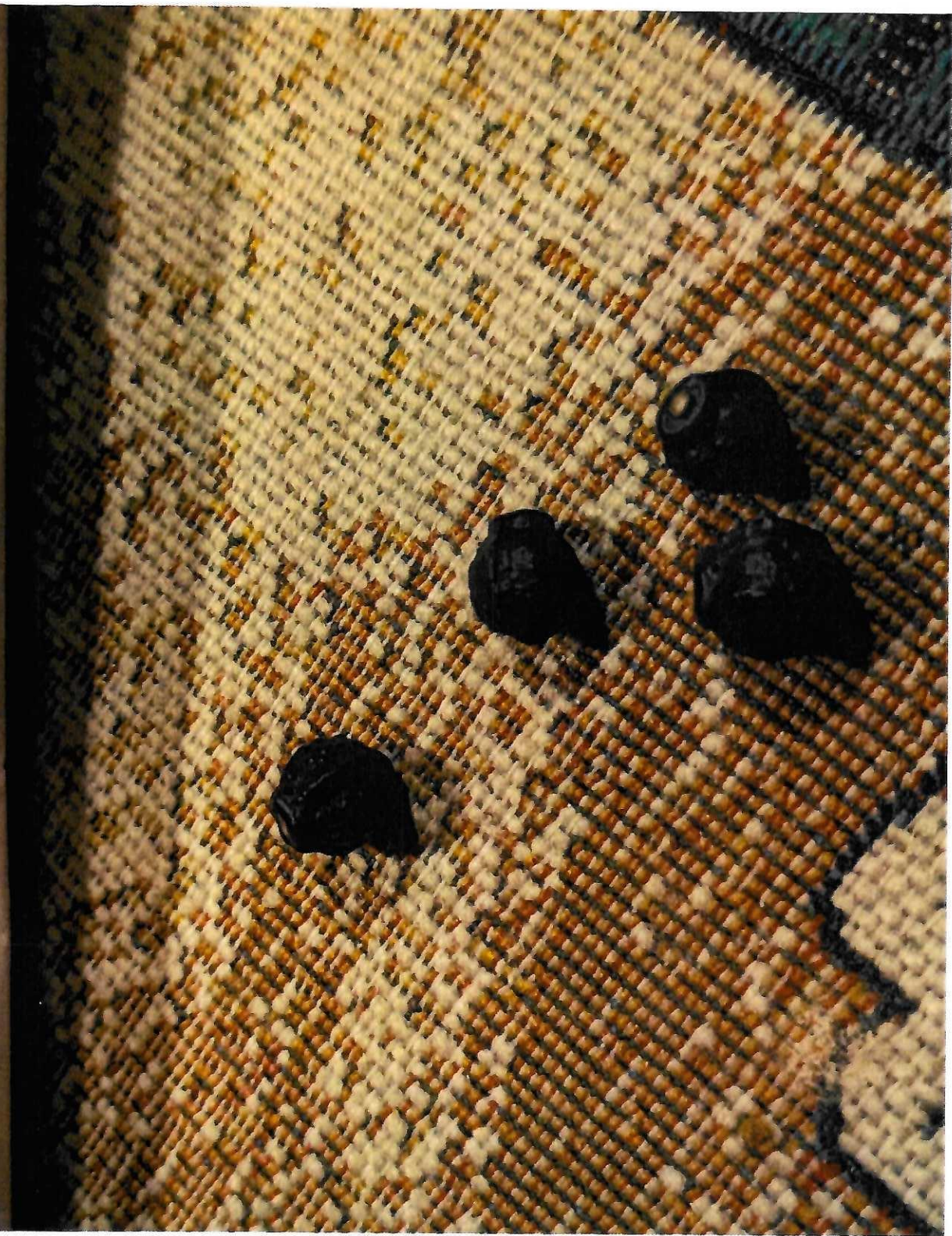
Register & purchase lanterns at PlymouthTownRec.com





lunch

auty Comm. Seeds



Planting Recommendations

Planting: Sow seeds after the last threat of frost – about mid-May in Southern New England. Cover seeds with ¼ - one inch of soil.

Spacing: 18 - 24 inches.

Bloom: Shoots emerge in 7 to 14 days, depending on soil temperature and will begin blooming in mid-summer and continue with new blossoms into fall. Plants are care free but can be pinched to encourage a fuller habit.

Height: 36 - 48 inches if well tended.

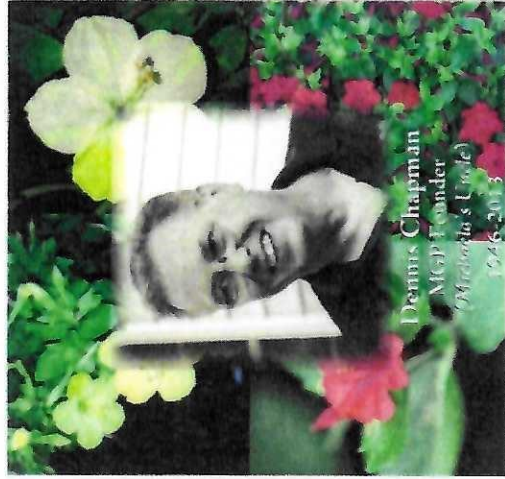
Exposure: Full sun provides optimal flowering and they will tolerate dry conditions once established in the ground.

Caution: Seeds and parts of the foliage are poisonous if ingested. Keep away from pets and small children.

Seed Collecting: Collect seeds (they look like black peppercorns) as matured flowers wilt. A once per week collection schedule is recommended. A large mature plant will yield 3-400 seeds.



To learn more about seed collecting
and other information visit
www.petitfamilyfoundation.org



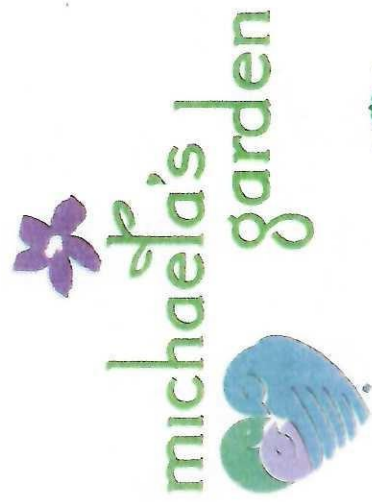
Thank you for your interest, suggestions and participation in the Michaela's Garden Project.

Your help is honoring the memory of
Michaela Rose Petit



Bill & Michaela, July 2007

Petit Family Foundation
Michaela's Garden Project
32 Whiting Street, P.O. Box 310
Plainville, CT 06062
Like Michaela's Garden on Facebook
860-479-1436
info@petitfamilyfoundation.org



First Children's
State Flower
in the U.S.A.



Plant the Seeds of Hope
Harvest the Seeds of Change
Be the Change One Garden at a Time



PETIT
family
FOUNDATION

Michaela's favorite quote:
*"You must be the change you
wish to see in the world."*
—Mohandas Gandhi

What's the project about?

The **Michaela Garden Project** was the vision of Michaela's Uncle, Dennis Chapman. A farmer at heart, Dennis was looking for a way to memorialize his youngest niece. Dennis wanted to start a project that would foster the education of young people, especially women in the sciences, by providing outreach programs and to encourage youth participation.

For the past twelve summers, **Michaela's Four O'Clocks** have been re-planted with seeds propagated from her original garden in Cheshire. As a result, **Michaela's Garden Project (MGP)** continues to have enough seeds to expand and grow. Today these flowers bloom and thrive in gardens throughout Connecticut and even further afield.

Unfortunately, Dennis passed away before **Michaela's Four O'Clocks** were named as the **State of CT's Children's Flower** on June 19, 2015. We hope that the **Michaela Garden Project** will continue her legacy and her memory by promoting idealism, activism and kindness that will encourage future generations to "Be the Change."

Our Program

The purpose of our project is to raise funds to support the Petit Family Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and use the seeds and flowers as a basis for educational programs.

Our mission is to honor the memories of **Jennifer Hawke-Petit, Hayley Elizabeth Petit, and Michaela Rose Petit** by continuing the kindness, idealism and activism that defined their lives. The Foundation's funds are given to help foster the education of young people, especially women in the sciences; to improve the lives of those affected by chronic illnesses; and to support efforts to protect and help those affected by violence.

How You Can Help

You can help the Petit Foundation and **Michaela's Garden Project** by using your gardening skills to plant Four O'Clock flowers, harvest the seeds, keep some for your next planting then share some with us. All of our seeds were propagated from plants in **Michaela's Garden**, and a certification of origin must be maintained.

Michaela's Four O'Clocks seed are available for a donation of \$5 by visiting our website (www.petitfamilyfoundation.org). All proceeds will support the Foundation and help ensure the continued success of the **Michaela's Garden Project**.

Contact us about starting a community garden, a school program or fundraiser to help youth groups or clubs learn about the benefits of agriculture. AgriScience schools in CT enhance their skill and gain knowledge by growing the Four O'Clocks as part of their curriculum. These plants are available in limited quantities visit petitfamilyfoundation.org or facebook.com/MichaelasGarden for local availability.

Mirabilis jalapa, (Marvel of Peru) *Mirabilis in Latin means wonderful*

A favorite of Michaela's, Four O'Clocks are sturdy, bushy plants with showy red, pink, yellow and white trumpet-shaped flowers. Some blooms are two-toned – yellow and white. On rare occasions, a plant will produce flowers with so called "broken colors." These blossoms are unique because they can be virtually any combination of colors.

Some are spotted, others striped – all different from one another. They are unusual because different colored blossoms can appear on the same plant.



Mirabilis jalapa in colors

Four O'Clocks are so named because they open their flowers in the late-afternoon (about 4 o'clock). During the heat of the day blossoms are closed. The blooms remain open overnight, and close again in early morning. They are also known for their strong, aromatic fragrance.

Michaela's Gardens

Michaela's Gardens are located throughout CT to honor KK, to create awareness and to motivate the changes we wish to see in the world.

For information on **Michaela's Garden** please contact PFF at info@petitfamilyfoundation.org

A partial listing of Garden locations:

Boys & Girls Club of
Bristol Family Center
Cheshire Food Pantry
Cheshire West Community
Butterfly Garden, Cheshire
CT Science Center, Hartford
Hartford Healthcare
Cancer Institute at
Hospital of Central CT
Killingly Public Library,
Danielson

Ojackson Commons,
Simsbury
Plainville Public Library,
Plainville
Walnut Hill Park,
New Britain
Whiting Forensic Hospital
University of St. Joseph,
West Hartford