

# Local garden featured on TV

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Every time Barb Devine enters the grove of cedar trees near the back of her family's three-quarter acre garden, she reaches down to jingle a small gold bell.

"Our goal here is to remind us of the things that we've lost," said Devine as she explained that the bell, marked "Kiwanis," is rung in remembrance of her father, a former secretary of the Kiwanis Club, who passed away last year.

"This is a happy place," she said. "It's a great outlet for some tough times."

Located off Oakland Gravel Road in Northeast Columbia, the Devine's garden, which is tended by Barb and her husband Dan, will be featured among the noteworthy gardens in town on the Home and Garden Network's cable television program, "A Place to Call Home," tonight.

Also highlighted by the show is local gardener Verna Harris-LaBoy and her community gardening work as well as a televised tour of the Shelter Gardens on West Broadway. The show will air locally on Media-com channel 53 at 7 p.m. and repeat at 10.

From the entrances on the "butterfly house" to the alphabetized plant rows in the children's gar-

den, the Devines have turned what was once a brushy backyard into a plant lover's paradise.

Though mostly leafless at the moment, the coming of spring promises to envelop the former floodplain in primrose pinks, cone flower purples, and Ozark sundrop oranges.

"I'm the idea guy, and he does the work," Barb Devine laughed as her husband, a ninth-grade teacher and coach at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, flipped hot dogs on the small deck near the "memory garden."

This teardrop-shaped garden, with its statue of St. Peter, the guardian of the keys to heaven, is a tribute to Dan's mother, JoAnn Devine, who

passed away last year. According to Barb, JoAnn's legacy will not be forgotten either. "It seems Dan has his mom's talent for growing things," she said.

Although the day lily garden is Barb's favorite, the Devines have also designated plots for a Japanese garden, a sculpture garden, a bug garden, and a children's garden where Barb says, "Kids can play, climb on the rocks, learn about, smell, and feel the textures of different herbs and plants."

As a former preschool teacher and mother of two, Barb Devine's knowledge of what will endure the elements and what will fall apart seems to shine through in the family garden.

"Believe it or not, Missouri is one of the hardest places to grow in the country because there's no snow cover to protect the roots during the winter," Barb Devine said.

"When the roots are disturbed, the plant takes more time to recover and grow," added her husband, who also confessed that much of the gardening process is fairly new to him.

"Luckily we have a master gardener here though," he added, smiling at his wife who was busy pointing out the fire-red holly berries whose bright hues hinted at good things to come.



**Barb and Dan Devine stand in their garden, which was planted in honor of Dan's mother.**