



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

Johnson's Garden Talk

October 2001



WEST 13th STORE

2707 West 13th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67203
316-942-1443

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6225 E. Shadybrook
(21st @ Woodlawn)
Wichita, KS 67203
316-687-5451

RIDGE ROAD STORE

802 N. Ridge Rd.
Wichita, KS 67212
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LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION NIGHTSCAPING

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CORPORATE OFFICE

316-942-3751

TOLL-FREE NUMBER

888-542-8463

EMAIL

askus@johnsonsgarden.com

WEB PAGE

www.johnsonsgarden.com

She's Always on the Run at Johnson's Garden Centers

Carolyn Utter, Editor

Is Traci there? The question comes booming over the office phone's intercom. More than likely she's not. With duties that keep her running between Johnson's main warehouse ... the West 13th warehouse ... the annex warehouse ... and sometimes her office desk, Traci Harrison is always on the go at Johnson's Garden Center.

As part of her job, Traci oversees Johnson's inventory, makes pricing labels for products and gets all of Johnson's Christmas merchandise ready for the season. Christmas preparations start in late June and last through early October. During those 3-4 months, she and her helpers "physically touch each Christmas item ... thousands of them ... as we sort and label each and every item for all three of Johnson's stores."

Traci likes her work at Johnson's because there's always something different to do. "It's fun ... I'm always busy ... there's never a dull moment." She has worked in the office for 3 1/2 years now, after 8 years in the store and greenhouse. When she transferred to the office, Traci was "ready for a change" but was a little unsure because she'd never worked on a computer before. She caught on quickly, however, because Traci was a major contributor in getting Johnson's point-of-sale UPC system up and running this spring. She and the Johnson's are still working out a few bugs, but Traci never gets discouraged. Each new "problem" is just another challenge to Traci.

Traci and her husband, Jerry, have been married for 13 years. Jerry is an Assistant County Manager with Sedgwick County. Traci and Jerry have four children: Ryan, 16; Heather, 18; Sarah, 23; and Justin, 26.

Heather is a freshman at WSU and this summer earned a spot on the WSU cheerleading squad. Heather helps Traci "do Christmas" at Johnson's during the summer and recently started working part time in Johnson's Landscaping office.

Ryan attends Maize High School and is a Yell Leader. This past summer, Ryan earned a spot on the All-American Yell Leader Team when he placed #1 out of 300 in the competition at Baker University! Traci is "glad to see Heather and Ryan's many years of gymnastics paying off!"

Sarah is a first year teacher at West High School and Justin works for a local cable company. Sarah and Justin each have blessed the Harrison family with a grandchild.

The Harrisons hosted a Brazilian foreign exchange student, Andrea Corrales, from 1999 to 2000. Jerry, Traci, Ryan and Heather enjoyed visiting Andrea and her family in Sao Paulo, Brazil for two weeks this past Christmas. Andrea hopes to be back in the United States this November for an extended visit and then return to Brazil to start medical school.

One of Traci's "hobbies" is to decorate for the holidays. Her annual outdoor Halloween display is a neighborhood tradition including a cemetery with headstones, bats and ghosts in the trees, and new this year--blinking eyeballs. Almost all of Traci's Halloween decorations came from Johnson's over the years. Jerry has been known to call their home "Johnson's Annex."



Traci Harrison handles inventory, pricing and "does" Christmas at Johnson's Garden Center