

John G. Testa

## New Garden Store Blossoms in Peekskill's Downtown.

":Shades of Green" Focuses on Design, Plants, Supplies, Education.

Ribbon-Cutting to Take Place on Saturday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m. at 23 North Division Street. Purchasers will get free bunch of lavender with every purchase to celebrate Mother's Day.

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PEEKSKILL, NY— An oasis of opportunities for gardeners has bloomed in Peekskill's downtown with the opening of Shades of Green, a garden shop and design studio.

Shades of Green's customers will find a rich selection of everything from gorgeous plants to in-depth horticultural books, Marsocci says. The store will focus on both mainstays and newer, more exotic products, she says. "We carry perennials, shrubs annuals orchids and a few houseplants—really everything," Marsocci says.

What makes Shades of Green truly special are the unusual, cutting edge floral goods it carries, the intensive expertise of its owners and their willingness to share their wisdom and help educate the community. A ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the store's opening will take place on Saturday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m. To honor Mother's Day, Shades of Green is giving away free bunches of lavender with every purchase to customers who attend the event.

"We're bringing a lot of things here that are new to market and that you can't find in many garden centers," Marsocci says. "We have a new, New York series of oriental poppies and the Limelight Hydrangea that was just introduced last year," she says.

Located at 23 North Division Street, Shades had an eager and satisfied clientele before it even opened its doors. "The farmer's market was a huge success for us and we wanted to expand upon that," Marsocci says. "We started selling at the farmer's market and we made great connections with the people around the community," she says. "We found that there were a lot of people interested in gardening that needed help doing it and wanted more choices in plant material," she says.

She and her husband have many years of experience in the horticultural industry, and they're excited about the chance to share their wisdom with other people. "We have a setting where we can do garden design work, and we hope that we will provide a source for education in horticulture," Marsocci says.

"One of the things we have we would like to promote and get people interested and involved in is a library of about 350 different books on gardening and horticulture," Marsocci says. "We would like to develop that into a lecture series and give an outlet to plants all through the year," she says.

Shades of Green has its own greenhouse where it is growing 80 different varieties of perennials. It will also be selling seeds and cut flowers during the summer. All this is a perfect fit for Peekskill, says Mayor John Testa. "Peekskill has one of Westchester's oldest garden clubs and some of the most beautiful gardens in the county," Testa says.

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