

November 24, 2023

Bonnie W. Johnson
6 Summit Place
Newburyport, MA. 01950

Dear President and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to request your permission to set up a table in Newburyport's downtown square on Saturday and Sunday, December 9th and 10th, between 10am and 1pm, so that the Newburyport Horticultural Society (HORT) can sell fresh cut greens centerpiece arrangements and holiday ornaments. Our goal is to raise money to fund the scholarships we give out each spring to two local high school students pursuing an education in environmental science or horticulture.

Our committee has given two \$1,000 scholarships each year and we are striving to raise more money so that we can give two \$2,000 scholarships each year going forward. To do that we want to offer our community lovely, handmade centerpieces crafted by our members. All money will go to the scholarship fund; the HORT is a 501C3 organization.

Our mission states: "We stimulate and promote the knowledge and love of gardening, advocate for the natural beauty of the community, and encourage the conservation of natural resources".

I can think of no better way to use the greens from our own gardens to create centerpieces that when purchased, help support local students to pursue their interest in bettering our environment.

We are hoping that the Newburyport City Council will give us the permit needed to support local students and share the beauty of our gardens on our tables and in our home this holiday season. Please let me know if the permit will be granted; my contact information is below.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Bonnie W. Johnson
Scholarship Chairperson
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