

# Chelse's Greenhouse grows flowers, vegetables

By KELLY FENNESSY  
Daily News Staff Writer  
[kfennesy@dailynewsemail.com](mailto:kfennesy@dailynewsemail.com)

An Elizabeth Township business continues to bloom.

Chelse's Greenhouse, located in the Buena Vista section, offers a variety of flowers, vegetable plants, trees, berry bushes and other nursery favorites. Owner Nyles Falatek opened the business 13 years ago after starting with a small greenhouse in his mother's backyard.

The greenhouse is named after Falatek's black lab Chelse, who he said was his constant companion before she died in 2004. He said the dog would lay outside the first greenhouse, guarding the entrance and protecting all the plants inside.

Now, visitors often are greeted by the newest nursery guard Enzo, a St. Bernard who Falatek said is "large but very friendly."

Word-of-mouth advertising brings in many new customers. Summer visitors often are looking for berry bushes, with blueberry, blackberry and raspberry the most popular varieties.

"They're coming into bloom right now and producing," Falatek said. "Most people right now are planning their perennials."

Falatek said customers still can pick up a hanging basket filled with their favorite annual flowers, which remain a "best bet" in terms of finding a plant that will produce into the fall.

"It'll flower all the way through the frost," he said.

"Your baskets are still going to look really nice."

Falatek's sister Dru Falatek, who assists with the greenhouse, said people who have moved out of the area often ask relatives and friends to purchase plants for them from Chelse's Greenhouse.

"When people know about us, they come back," she said. "They like the quality for the price. We're still the best-kept secret in the township."

Dru Falatek said the greenhouse staff always is willing to help patrons find the perfect plant for their patio or planter. She said a customer wanted to create a red, white and blue garden to honor her sons in the armed forces, and the greenhouse helped her find just what she needed.

New offerings are grown each year, with customer input one of the driving forces when deciding what to offer each year, Dru Falatek said.

"We're always taking suggestions of what we should grow," she said. "This year, we did our Gerber daisies a little bit early, and people just love them."

For the fall, the greenhouse will turn its focus to mums. Also offered are pumpkins, dried cornstalks, hay and other locally grown seasonal favorites.

Chelse's Greenhouse is located at 1191 Rock Run Road, Elizabeth Township, and 5020 William Penn Highway, Monroeville. Rock Run Road hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, and Monroeville hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 412-751-5890 or go to the website [www.chelsesgreenhouse.com](http://www.chelsesgreenhouse.com).



— Photo by Cindy Shegan Keeley/Daily News  
**Nyles Falatek and his pup Enzo display potted plants at Chelse's Greenhouse in Elizabeth Township.**