



Burlington mayor an avid gardener

By Sally Pollak

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Bob Kiss beat Washington's gardener-in-chief by 35 years.

The Burlington mayor has been gardening in the city's community garden program since 1974, which makes him the city's longest-serving gardener, according to Jim Flint, executive director of Friends of Burlington Gardens.

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Kiss and his wife, Jackie Majoros, have worked three city garden plots, the mayor said.

Their first garden was at 3 Cathedral Square; they had another one at Ethan Allen Homestead and have been gardening in the Intervale, at the Tommy Thompson gardens, for at least two decades.

"It's great to be in the Intervale," Kiss said. "It was amazing to be able to walk down Intervale Road and be in a rural setting. There used to be a working dairy herd that would come down the road."

Kiss eats kale from his garden through the winter. He enjoys picking Brussels sprouts for Thanksgiving and has homegrown soy beans in his freezer.

"Depending on what else is happening, if you did it right, you'd spend an hour every other day just keeping track of the weeds," Kiss said.

The majority of the work involves getting the garden planted and the first big weeding, Kiss said. "If you do those two things, then it's maintenance," he said.

And good eating.

"It's always nice to be there and grow lettuce and broccoli and tomatoes," Kiss said. "It's great to be able to pick something fresh out of your garden in the summer."

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