



May 25, 2009

Community garden sprouts

Free Press Staff Report

Although Williston was once a farm town, gardeners toiling over vegetable plots are not usually seen in the commercial district of Taft Corners. Until now.

Thursday was the opening day of a community garden plot sponsored by Taft Corners Associates and Gardener's Supply Co. The highly visible plot at the corner of Marshall Avenue and Harvest Lane is meant to inspire other businesses to sponsor gardens on unused land around town.

Master Gardener Debbie Page planted the seed for the community plot idea. She had been working at Four Seasons Garden Center, now Gardener's Supply retail store, on Marshall Avenue. Where others saw a long vacant plot, she saw garden potential.

Page, a part-time employee of Gardener's Supply, approached Jeff Davis of the Taft Corners Associates about sponsoring a community garden on the land.

"He said yes, and I couldn't believe how easy that was," Page said.

Jim Flint, executive director of Vermont Community Garden Network, put Page in touch with others with community gardening experience, John Peckham and Lindsay Pokorak, both of Williston. Over the winter the three made plans for the new community garden.

The Williston Parks and Recreation Department community garden near Brennan Park has had a waiting list, so organizers knew finding gardeners to fill the new plot wouldn't be a problem. Six of the 10 plots in the new 80-by-80-foot garden have been filled.

Page is confident the other plots will be filled. She plans to visit an affordable housing complex near-by and neighboring businesses to inquire about residents or employees who may want to join.

Page will spend her time with other Master Gardeners growing vegetables for the Williston Community Food Shelf in eight raised beds also on the property.

Additional Facts

Sign up for a plot

Four plots remain at the Taft Corners Community Garden at the corner of Marshall Avenue and Harvest Lane. The cost is \$30 for the season. For more information, call Gardener's Supply at 660-3500.