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## Community garden brings Burlington neighbors together

By Lynn Monty, Free Press Staff Writer

Tomatoes, chives and sweet peas have replaced what was once an auto shop on the corner of Archibald and Walnut streets. The Archibald Neighborhood Garden has been in place for three years offering 19 plots to about 30 gardeners. It also serves as recreational space for the community.

The land is now owned by the Visiting Nurses Association, and the garden is sponsored Burlington Parks and Recreation and receives guidance from Friends of Burlington Gardens and The Vermont Community Garden Network.

Carol Ann Wooster has lived on Walnut Street for 13 years.

"When I heard the rumors about a community garden I got very excited because I had just read the book, 'Seed Folks' about community gardening, so I helped to write a grant for the shed and I helped where I could to set up," Wooster said.

Jo Beauchemin's house is next to the garden where she tends two plots with friend Victoria Marini. They have planted tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, broccoli, garlic, lettuce, chard and beets.

"It's wonderful to have in my backyard," Beauchemin said. "All kinds of neat things go on in here. There are activities in the garden every week, and it's a great place for all of the neighbors to get together."

Shaun Parker has an at-home day care and brings the children to the garden often to help with her garden plot.

"This is my first year," Parker said. "The kids love the green beans and I particularly love the Saturday morning yoga and tai chi. It gets you ready for the whole week. It's just awesome."

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### Additional Facts

If you go

**WHAT:** Gardener's Warm-Up: a combination of breathing, stretching, yoga, tai chi and qi gong taught by Jeri Helen, Julie Epstein and Nik Gruswitz

**WHEN:** Saturdays, 9-9:40 a.m. **WHERE:** Archibald Neighborhood Garden

**CONTACT:** growteam@yahoo.com 598-3139 or visit [www.growteamvt.com](http://www.growteamvt.com)

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