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News From the South Village Stewardship Board



The South Village Stewardship Board works to protect, support, and enhance the South Village Common Lands, including the Open Space and the Farm.

What are the South Village Common Lands?

The South Village Common Lands include the Farm, the 135 acres of Open Space that is not developed, and “pocket parks” within the neighborhood. The Stewardship Fund manages the designated Common Lands within South Village. The Fund is a certified non-profit organization with our own mission, Board, and budget. For more information, see the [South Village Stewardship Board website](#).

Some park areas have traditionally been mowed as playground and meeting grounds while others are left in a natural state. Natural areas can be very appealing, and biologically diverse. For example, the wetland swale between Flanders Lane and East Fisher Lane shows the rich variety of native plants, each



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communities, which in turn support bird life. Red-winged blackbirds nest at the swale in the spring; goldfinches come in autumn. They are attracted to the protective cover and food supply for their young.

Pitch in to Help Spot Invasives!

Kudos to Shelley Rayback of South Jefferson Road and Ron Mogel of Preserve Road, who recognized possibly invasive plants and alerted the South Village Stewardship Board. As a result, Conservation Ecologist Bob Hyams was dispatched to treat Japanese knotweed, interceding as it marched toward the wetlands where it would have been much more difficult to eradicate. In addition, Bob will be treating the invasive glossy buckthorn in the wetlands off Churchill Road, leaving room for a stately white pine, dogwoods and other plants to flourish. If you spot what may be a non-native or invasive plant of concern, please contact a Board member for identification (contact info below).



The Great Pumpkin Experiment



As the growing season winds down, so does the Great Pumpkin Experiment. With support and encouragement from Common Roots farmer Colin O'Brien, Preserve Road resident Anson Tebbetts tried to grow his first giant pumpkin at the Farm. Inspired by the Vermont Giant Pumpkin Growers Association, Anson began the experiment by sowing seeds in late winter. The seeds germinated, grew, and eventually

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including the weather, pests such as cucumber beetles, and even deer, who one night enjoyed a midnight snack on one of the pumpkins. Many giant pumpkins go on to become seasonal displays. Check out Anson's South Village pumpkin at the entrance to the Farm Stand.

The Great Pumpkin Experiment culminated with a tri-state competition and weigh-off at Mazza's Farm in Colchester. Giant pumpkins from across Vermont, New Hampshire and New York arrived by truck and trailer. At the end of the day the winning pumpkin weighed 2359.5 pounds, a new record. Anson placed 19th with a pumpkin weight of 299.5 (definitely a first-time grower!). Where did that extra half pound go?



South Village Neighbors' Generous Donations Support the Farm and Open Lands

Did you know that South Village neighbors pitched in to create the first Farm infrastructure? The greenhouses, Farm Stand building supplies, electricity, storage shed, high tunnels, chicken coop, and the cost of erecting the Farm Stand were donated by Stewardship Board members with leadership from Richard Horn, John Owen, and Sterling Construction. As the farm was developing, multiple neighbors responded to a challenge grant that established a fund to benefit farm projects. Our South Village Farm exists because of the generosity of some of our neighbors.

The tradition of generosity continues this season amid the South Village open lands. Two park benches now flank the Free Library on the green by Dewey Place, one of which was donated by Carl Moore and Susan Darnell, the other by Ann Patterson and



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Stewardship Board about the possibility of donating trees for the Open Space; Ed and Sherry Alber also participated in the purchase of the trees for a win-win - a better view and increasing the biodiversity of the neighborhood with native oak and apple trees. An anonymous South Village donor continues to maintain his financial support with a monetary gift to the Farm. We also benefit from volunteer hours both at the Farm and in the Open Space with activities such as skinning the high tunnels and weeding invasives on the preserve. As the year draws to a close, please consider making a donation to the Stewardship Fund. We are grateful for our generous and dedicated community!

Farm Stand: Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree October 27; Limited Hours in November

Come one, come all, to the Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree at the South Village Farm Stand! The celebration is scheduled for 3 - 6 PM on Thursday, October 27 (rain date October 28). Make nature mandalas, sample tasty treats, sing songs, help Appleseed Ted press cider, meet Farmer Colin, and decorate pumpkins alongside Chef Anthony! The event is free and open to the public.



The Farm Stand is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 AM - 6 PM, through October. As of November 1, the Farm Stand will be open Friday and Saturday, 10 AM - 2 PM, until Thanksgiving, and then it will be closed for the winter. The Farm at South Village is run by [Common Roots](#), a local food, education, and land stewardship organization.
