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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.

The Community Garden Beds are Ready - Sign Up Now!

The garden beds, which are located to the east of the farm stand at the farm, are ready for the coming growing season. This year, we are hoping to make the community garden experience more community focused and *fun!* Our community garden program has exciting new features to look forward to.

First, you may have noticed some of the garden beds have been replaced. This is part of the plan to eventually update all of the beds, and possibly add more if there is a demand for them.



Second, the South Village Stewardship

Board has also worked to contain the weeds with which we are all too familiar. Those of you who have gardened at the beds know that the weeds can be overwhelming. To start the process of weed mitigation, this spring a fence will be installed around the garden bed area to eliminate the need for fencing around individual beds (which can make thorough weeding near impossible). To that end, we are asking all gardeners to be vigilant about staying ahead of the weeds. It is challenging because we are in the middle of a field, but when someone lets their bed go to weeds, it affects all the other beds for that season and into the next.

Third, water, water – everywhere. We will be installing underground piping with interval

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...and last but not least, we are inspired by our community! This summer, we plan to host gatherings at the garden beds, some educational talks, and other activities to help us all get to know our neighbors and share in the growing experience. We live in an agrihood—let's drink it in!

Reserve your garden bed for the 2024 season! [Click here to download the form.](#) Please fill out the form and mail it with your payment to Paula Caron (details provided on form).

Ecologist's Report: South Village Preserve Evolving, Beneficial Beaver Colony Expanding

Annually the South Village Stewardship Board works with restoration ecologist Bob Hyams of Habitat Restoration Services to manage the 100-acre Preserve bordering the east side of the village. Bob notes in his [annual report](#) that the



2023 work season had 3 major themes: taking stock of progress to date, continued non-native invasive plant control focusing on priority areas, and restoration plantings. Bob's report also highlights the presence of a growing beaver colony on the land - which is great news! Beavers have garnered scientists' attention for potential playing a critical role against flooding and climate change, with an impact that is so extensive that it can be seen from space: "Beavers are ecosystem engineers—and the ecosystems they create happen to be key to limiting wildfires and managing drought conditions." Want to know more? Check out this article about [NASA's work to encourage beaver colonies in critical areas](#).

Welcome New Board Members, Heidi and Diane!

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Heidi and her husband moved to South Village in 2014. Having grown up in Williston, Heidi was drawn to South Village for its beautiful organic farm, the preserved land with trails, and the homes with front porches. She is an avid gardener, practicing yoga therapist, and teacher. She also enjoys cooking. Heidi is thrilled to be part of the Stewardship Board and says she is excited to dive in to help maintain the unique treasures we have in this special neighborhood.

Diana (Diane) Haghighat

Diane and her husband moved to South Village in 2023. They loved visiting Vermont and decided to finally move from Connecticut once their children were grown. Diane enjoys hiking, skiing, gardening, creating pottery, and walking Molly, the family rescue dog. She also loves to cook, bake, and especially loves all things sourdough. You may recognize Diane from the farm stand, where she worked last season. She says volunteering is a great way to meet neighbors, support local agriculture, and connect to the South Village agrihood.



News from Common Roots: Eclipse, Farm Stand, and Memberships

You're invited to a Common Roots Total Eclipse Adventure!

On Monday, April 8th, a total eclipse of the sun will be visible from the Burlington region. Everyone is invited to the Wheeler Homestead at 1100 Dorset Street on April 8, from noon - 3:30 PM, to watch the eclipse, boogie down to live music from Chad Hollister, sing, explore nature, and play games from the Big Blue Trunk. Tickets range from free to \$35 depending on age; [click here for tickets and more information](#). NASA-approved ISO viewing glasses are included.



Preparing for an bountiful season at the farm; volunteers needed

As we get closer to opening day at the South Village farm stand in April, Common Roots is working hard for an amazing year. Stop in and visit the new farm stand Manager, Abby, and meet other staff and volunteers. New farm stand volunteers are

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)***"Flex" with a Common Roots membership that you can use for meals and/or farm stand purchases***

The Common Roots Flex Membership can be used at The Wheeler House for Farm to Fork Tuesdays, Flatbread Fridays, and Comfort Food Fridays, and it can also be used at the South Village Farm Stand this season. Click here to [learn more about the Common Roots Flex membership](#); [click here to purchase](#).

The South Burlington Land Trust has published an update on the Long Property, the 39-acre parcel of land located between the northern border of South Village and the South Pointe Neighborhood. Click here to read more about the efforts of the land trust and their partners to permanently conserve the land.

Preserve Trail Work Continues

Last November as the first snow fell, a group of intrepid trail crew members ventured out to place signs marking Preserve borders. Barry, Ty, Paula, John, Susan, and Alden sunk posts and put up new trail signs to create awareness and help walkers understand the area's sensitive ecological balance.

The Preserve, which totals about 100 acres, may be accessed from South Village and surrounding neighborhoods. South Village entrances to the Preserve can be found from Midland, and from the trail that marks the northern border of South Village with the South Pointe neighborhood (accessed from North Jefferson).



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Did you know South Village has three Facebook pages?

[South Village Vermont](#) - An active resident-driven group featuring residents' news, photos and updates

[South Village Community \(Arrowhead Group\)](#) - Updates from our maintenance contractor, Arrowhead

[South Village Real Estate](#) - Posts about home closings within the community

The South Village Stewardship Board

The Stewardship Fund is governed by a Board composed of a maximum of nine individuals, elected by the residents of South Village. They are responsible for the strategic planning, budgeting, monitoring, and program development of the South Village Stewardship Board.

Current members of the Board include (in alphabetical order):

- John Bakewell, Member (johnbakewell@comcast.net)
 - Paula Caron, Member (nikolla1954@gmail.com)
 - Susan Darnell, Member (susandarnell@comcast.net)
 - Diana Haghighat (haghighatdiana22@gmail.com)
 - Heidi Kvasnak, Secretary (heidibarbarayoga@gmail.com)
 - Ron Mogel, Member (ron@s2r1.org)
 - John Owen, Chair (jrowen18@gmail.com)
 - Vicky Tebbetts, Member (vtebbetts@gmail.com)
 - George Zipf, Treasurer (georgezipf@gmail.com)
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