



"Close To Home"



Hannaford #121  
260 Court St., Suite #6, Middlebury, VT 05753



## Golden Russet...

*(Continued from Page 11)*

What that means for Golden Russet is, except for the people who are buying their produce through grocery stores, their clientele is "hyper local."

"When we first started our CSA program 20 years ago many of our members came from Middlebury, Vergennes and farther towns, but now they're pretty much all from Shoreham, Bridport, Cornwall, Orwell and Addison, with a much smaller number coming from Middlebury and Vergennes."

To help fit the changing demand, the Stevenses also grow two full greenhouses' worth of starter plants that they sell directly to home gardeners who grow their own vegetables and flowers. Starting in early March, the crew begins to germinate seeds and nourish them for potential transfer to either their own eight acres of vegetable garden or for sale directly to individual gardeners.

The farm is not typically open to the public as a classic farm stand would be, but starting at the end of April they are open every day for a couple of months selling vegetable starts, hanging baskets and other plants to eager gardeners.

"There are so many wonderful gardeners around the area, and I really love the part of my job where I get to talk to them about their plans and help them design a successful garden," Judy Stevens said.

So at ages 55 and 60, with three grown kids and after 35 years of gardening (and a successful eight-year legislative career for Will in the Statehouse), one might wonder, what's next?

"Right now we're sticking with it," said Judy. "We just want to keep growing stuff — vegetables and our business — and we think we have a few ideas on how to do that."

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