

Bloomingfoods Owner News



Bloomingfoods Announces Consolidation; Closes Elm Heights

The board of directors and general manager of Bloomington Cooperative Services have closed the Elm Heights location.

The Elm Heights store on 2nd and Fess opened in August 2013 after several years of market surveys and research; the store has significantly underperformed since its opening.

The co-op will also move its commissary kitchen operations, currently located on South Washington Street, back into the east side and Near West Side stores later this year, a return to the co-op's original model.

Both moves are being made for financial reasons as Bloomingfoods strives to size itself efficiently for the current and future competitive environment. Co-op leadership feels that these moves give Bloomingfoods the best opportunity to continue to serve its owners and the community as it has since 1976.

Caroline Beebe, board president, said that general manager Tony Alongi's considerable financial skills helped the board reach a difficult agreement about what the co-op needed to do to stay in business. "Bloomingfoods is a community resource. This was a tough decision, but we think it will do the most good for the most people. It's better to right size the business than to remain overextended and risk closing altogether."

Concern for co-op staff is a high priority for the organization at this time. Although Bloomingfoods cannot guarantee that there will be no layoffs as a result of this consolidation, the organization is working hard to reposition staff wherever possible. Because of the timing of these moves, and some turnover due to the IU school year, it is highly likely that staff that wish to continue employment with the co-op will be able to do so. Approximately 50 people currently work at the two affected locations.

Bloomingfoods employs over 190 full and part time individuals, has annual sales of approximately \$18 million and is owned by over twelve thousand members.

For more information regarding the announcement and for a summary of the April Member Meeting, please visit the website [here](#).

May Featured Local Vendor: Broad Ripple Chip Co.



All shoppers receive 25% off!

"Broad Ripple Chip Co. is dedicated to crafting the highest-quality potato chip you have ever tasted. We're confident that our chips will leave your taste buds craving for more. Even Alton Brown from the Food Network said, "These chips are incredible!'" For more info visit them on the web at <http://www.broadripplechip.com>.

Location Updates: New Hours of Operation & Deli Schedules

East Store

Hours of Operation

Monday – Saturday 8am to 10pm
Sunday 8am to 8pm

Deli Schedule

Monday – Friday:
Breakfast Hot Bar 8am to 11am

Lunch Hot Bar 11am to 2pm
Dinner Hot Bar 5pm to 7pm

Deli Counter Sandwiches, Soup & Salad bar 11am to 8pm

Saturday:

Brunch Hot Bar 8am to 2pm
Deli Counter Sandwiches, Soup & Salad bar 11am to 8pm

Sunday:

Brunch Hot Bar 8am to 2pm
Deli Counter Sandwiches, Soup & Salad bar 11am to 6pm

Ivy Tech

Summer Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 7:30am to 3pm

We're Going Tobacco Free!

At April's board meeting (and in conjunction with a request put forward by general manager, Tony Alongi), the Board passed a new policy that will make Bloomingfoods a tobacco free zone no later than June 30, 2016. Sales and use of tobacco products are no longer seen as being consistent with our Ends. A full copy of the policy is available for review on Tony's desk. The Co-op will stop selling tobacco products on or before that date, and smoking or use of tobacco products will not be allowed on property owned or leased by Bloomingfoods.



Positive Change Adds Up

Bloomingfoods' shoppers have continued to eagerly support community organizations by rounding up at the register! In April, our shoppers donated a record breaking \$5,323.49 to [Mother Hubbard's Cupboard](#) through our community-driven fundraising campaign, Positive Change.

"The Bloomingfoods community has been a strong supporter of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard over the years and I'm glad we are able to continue our partnership through the Positive Change program," said Amanda Nickey, the Hub's President and CEO. "The \$5,323 raised in April will go a long way in providing healthy food and educational opportunities to those in need in our community. All of us at The Hub are grateful for the generosity of Bloomingfoods member owners and shoppers!"



May beneficiary – [Bloomington Community Orchard](#)

"Bloomington Community Orchard is an organization devoted to growing fruit for the community and growing our orcharding skills through educational opportunities. The publicly owned orchard is maintained by volunteers, and the harvest is available to everyone in the community."



World Fair Trade Day: Saturday, May 14th

"As consumers, every purchase we make is a vote within the market place. These votes influence not only which products we see on shelves but also where those products come from and how they are made.

Dedicated fair trade brands, with your support, are making positive change in the way business is done around the world. This means that every step along their brands' production lines reinforces fair trade relationships with small-scale farmers, farmworkers, and producers. Unlike exploitative global free trade, committed fair trade brands respect and contribute toward the wellbeing of the individuals, families and communities where trade is done; they show the same respect for farmers and producers that we expect to see in our own communities.

Small-scale, fair trade farmers and producers also create positive change by restoring and improving their natural environment, engaging in democratically run businesses and organizations, and more. So whether it's your coffee or chocolate, t-shirts or socks, soaps and shampoos, or bananas and nuts, there's a supply chain dedicated to positive change within the production of these every-day goods ([source](#))."

Bloomingfoods is already celebrating World Fair Trade Day with [specials](#) on Fair trade brands like Dr. Bronner's, Equal Exchange, Alaffia, and Theo. Stop in and support Fair Trade today!

Summer Garden Walk Tickets Available at East & Near West Side

Tour private gardens, and attend the annual Flower Show!

Saturday, June 25th 10am to 2pm

Sunday, June 26th Noon to 4pm

Tickets are \$10 each, and the proceeds benefit non-profit organizations in Monroe County that highlight children's gardening programs and civic planting and beautification projects.

For more info about this event visit the event [page](#).

Board News & Events

Board of Directors seeks new candidates!

Serving on the Board is an exciting way to be involved in visioning the future of our cooperative business. The Board uses a

combination of policy governance and strategic planning to guide the co-op towards a sustainable future for our community.

Visit our [website](#) for more information, and to download the election packet. Packet submission deadline is June 1st.

Board of Directors Meetings:

Thursday, May 26th @ 6:30pm

Thursday, June 30th @ 6:30pm

Regularly scheduled monthly board meetings are held the last Thursday of the month* at 6:30pm at the East Store Patio Meeting Room, 3220 E. 3rd Street. Board Meetings are open to co-op owner-members and guests of the board. Familiarity with the Bylaws, Policies, and the Policy Governance Method will enhance your understanding of the board meeting process.

Member Linkage Committee Meetings:

Wed May 18th @ 6-730pm, Monroe County Public Library, room 2A

Wed June 15th @ 6-730pm, Monroe County Public Library, room 2A

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

July 24th is our 40th Anniversary, and this year our annual meeting will cover a lot!

More details to come as we firm up the plans.



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