

Bloomingfoods Owner News



BLOOMINGFOODS



“New Shopping Experience at East” by Tony Alongi

As you read this, we have just put the finishing touches on a major change to our grocery shopping experience at the East store. If you haven't been to the store in the last few weeks, stop in and check it out. While long-time shoppers will have to learn new locations for many of the products that are in the aisles, we think you will agree that the reorganization creates a much better shopping experience in the store. For one, you can now enter the store without the giant bottleneck in the entrance. And we also now have plenty of space in aisle 1 for case stacks of products – killer deals on products that you won't be able to find anywhere else. This is the first of, hopefully, several minor revamps you will see at both stores in the coming year.

Why did we do this? At a high level we did it to better compete. An improved shopping experience for customers is one way in which we can better compete. Things change over time. Shopping patterns change, product offerings and tastes change and, typically, shelves become cluttered as new products are added but old, less popular ones, are not removed. Grocery stores typically do this kind of thing every 8-10 years. I cannot tell you the last time Bloomingfoods did this. We have some other changes in store as well, including, some new cases in the Deli and quite possibly the disappearance of the bright green paint in some of the store!

If you cannot find a product, ask one of our staff who will gladly assist you – and please bear with us as we are all learning the new product locations. If you are so inclined, we have maps available in the store to help you locate product categories. Luckily, both of our stores offer intimate shopping experiences, so if you forget something it is likely only a few short aisles away (unlike the big box grocery stores nearby where you might need to call Uber for a ride if you pass something by and need to backtrack!).

We hope you enjoy the new shopping experience at East. Stay tuned for more exciting changes and thank you for your continued patronage.

August Featured Local Vendor: Localfolks Foods

Bloomingfoods shoppers receive 25% off all Localfolks Foods products!



Located in Sheridan, Indiana, [LocalFolks Foods](#) is “committed to maximizing the use of available, local and regional ingredients, harvested at their peak of ripeness, to bring the best of our country’s bounty to your table year-round. Each LocalFolks Foods product is made with simplicity and quality in mind. Our delicious and healthy recipes never contain corn syrup, gluten, genetically modified or artificial ingredients.”

Bloomingfoods’ Celebrates 40th Birthday, Zeitgeist-Style



Saturday, July 23rd was our 40th birthday and we celebrated with house-made cakes and [Zeitgeist Organic Creamery’s](#) crafted-just-for-us “Bloomingberry” ice cream! Made with locally sourced ingredients, including organic blueberries, blackberries, and strawberries, this delicious, limited edition collaboration is one you won’t want to miss out on! Not into grass-fed dairy? Don’t worry, there’s a vegan version too!

All of us at Bloomingfoods would like to thank Steve at Zeitgeist for his on-point interpretation of the flavor of the co-op! We deeply appreciate his commitment to strengthening our community through awesome local food! Our relationship with Zeitgeist is an important one, and we’re already looking forward to the next collaboration!



Positive Change Supports the Shalom Community Center

Bloomingfoods' shoppers have really stepped up to aid folks experiencing poverty and homeless in our community! In July, our shoppers donated \$4224.63 to the Shalom Community Center through our community-driven fundraising campaign, Positive Change.

Positive Change raises funds by giving shoppers the opportunity to round their purchase up to the nearest dollar, or donate more if they wish. Each month, Bloomingfoods has a new recipient organization, and 100% of the proceeds go directly to the organization.

The Positive Change campaign continues at the East, Near West Side and Ivy Tech Bloomingfoods locations. In August, the co-op will be raising funds for the Interfaith Winter Shelter.



August beneficiary - [Interfaith Winter Shelter](#):

“The IWS operates as a “low barrier” shelter during the winter months. It was designed to offer a safe and warm place to sleep for men and women who—for whatever reason— have no other alternative but the streets.”

Last Call for Garden Center Business Proposals: Deadline August 5, 2016

Bloomingfoods is still accepting proposals from independent groups or individuals to re-establish a garden center business on the grounds of the East store. The deadline for proposals is fast approaching, so now is the time to act! For a variety of reasons, Bloomingfoods will not be re-opening its former Garden Center. However, due to interest expressed by several members/community groups, we decided to accept proposals from outside groups to re-establish a garden center. Bloomingfoods is willing to contribute to the success of a new garden center by leasing a dedicated space for \$1 per year to the new group. For further criteria, please see the details listed on this website ([available here](#)). Don't forget, the deadline for proposals to be considered is August 5, 2016.

Board News & Updates

2016 Bill Krejci Memorial Award



The Bloomingfoods Board of Directors is now accepting nominations for the 2016 Bill Krejci Memorial Award. This award was created in 1999 to honor Bill for his lifetime commitment to the cooperative way. The award has been given annually (with the exception of 2015) to a Bloomingfoods owner-member, staff member, or a past or present director that exemplifies Bill's spirit of giving of themselves to better Bloomingfoods. The award will be given at the 2016 Annual

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 19th.

If you would like to nominate an individual for the award, please complete the nomination form found on the Bloomingfoods website ([available here](#)). Completed nominations should be returned to Bloomingfoods at the following addresses no later than September 1, 2016.

Via U.S. Mail

Bloomingfoods
Attn: Board Administrator
316 West Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47404

Via email:

board@bloomingfoods.coop

Bylaw Review Continues...

Board president Caroline Beebe and a small working group have begun a thorough review of the co-op's bylaws, which are outdated and convoluted by many ad hoc changes over the years. The group hopes to have a new, completely revamped version of the bylaws ready for your approval in the September election.

Key issues include whether or not the co-op should have "legal entity" memberships. This would allow organizations to have memberships as well as individuals. Another important revision will be a clearer distinction between "active" and "inactive" members. For a list of bylaw focus group meeting dates and other news, please visit [BOARD NEWS](#) on the Bloomingfoods web site.

Board of Directors Meetings*

Regularly scheduled monthly board meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. 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.

Thursday, August 25th @ 6:30pm

Thursday, September 29th @ 6:30pm

*For the time being, the meetings will be held at the former Elm Heights store, located at 614 E 2nd St.

Owner Member Linkage Committee Meetings*

Wed, August 17th @ 6:15-7:15pm, East store patio

Wed, September 21st @ 6:15-7:15, East store patio

*New meeting time & location

Save the Date: Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

WonderLab Museum, 6-9pm

At this year's annual meeting we'll be celebrating our 40th birthday, as well as covering the business side of things. This will be a RSVP event, so please stay tuned for details!

Community News & Events

Area Farmers' Markets

- [Bloomington Community Farmers' Market](#), 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, at the Showers Common, 401 N. Morton St., Bloomington

- [Tuesday Farmers' Market](#), 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, at the corner of Sixth and Madison streets in Bloomington
- Wednesday Farmers' Market, 7 a.m.-noon Wednesday, at Bloomingfoods parking lot on East Third Street in Bloomington
- [Smithville Farmers' Market](#), 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, at the Smithville Park shelter house on Strain Ridge Road in Smithville
- [Bean Blossom Farmers' Market](#), 4-7 p.m. Friday, at the intersection of Ind. 135 and 45, Bean Blossom
- [Owen County Farmers' Market](#), 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, at 459 W. Morgan St., Spencer
- [Linton Farmers' Market](#), 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 4-Sept. 24, at Humphreys City Park, Linton.

Farmers' Market Tomato Tasting: Saturday, August 6th

"The Bloomington Community Farmers' Market holds their annual Heirloom Tomato Tasting Aug. 6 from 9 until 11:30 a.m. at Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St. Tomato tasting is free while supplies last.

Local farmers will provide a variety of colorful heirloom varieties for tasting, including Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Black from Tula, Pineapple, German Johnson, Green Zebra, Mortgage Lifter, Blue Beauty and more. Most of the tomato varieties will be available for sale at the Market as well."

10th Annual Chefs' Challenge: Saturday, August 6th

This benefit event for the Community Kitchen of Monroe County will feature three local chefs who will have one hour to prepare a winning dish from a pantry of ingredients, Iron Chef-style. For more information visit the Community Kitchen's website [here](#).

Salsa Contest: Saturday, August 27th

"Summer's sun is still blazing, and we're about to kick up the heat with Bloomington's 28th annual salsa contest. Entries for the city's best homemade salsa will be evaluated by a panel of expert judges. Take part in the food showdown of the year, and revel in the abundance of locally grown ingredients and the culinary craftsmanship of the salsa creations."

Purchase your salsa contest entry packet for \$5 at Bloomingfoods East (3220 E. Third St.) or Bloomingfoods Near West Side (316 W. Sixth St). Categories are Raw, Cooked, and Specialty.



For full details and contest guidelines, visit the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market website [here](#).

Save the Date

23rd Annual Lotus World Music and Arts Festival: September 15th-18th

"Celebrate the diversity, beauty, and joy of music and arts from cultures around the world. For a spectacular long weekend, more than 140 individual artists in 30+ bands will ignite a global explosion of music and dance performances, workshops, and stunning art installations in multiple venues throughout the heart of downtown Bloomington, Indiana.

This year's music line-up features Cuban son and Zimbabwean Afro-fusion alongside Swedish swing and Israeli electronica, complemented by delicate Nordic vocals, timplé genius from the Canary Islands, and even some big Austrian brass. Powerful sounds from the steppes of Mongolia share the stage with mesmerizing Sufi Qawwali, or you can enjoy one of the biggest names in reggae after getting your fill of American old-time, Irish trad, Ethiopian dance, and sizzling Afro-Cuban grooves. And that's just the tip of the 2016 iceberg!"

Visit www.lotusfest.org for up-to-date Festival artist, schedule, and ticketing information.



6th Annual Garden Gala: Saturday, September 24th

This Mother Hubbard's Cupboard benefit event will raise money for Garden and Nutrition Education Programs. Join the Hub for an evening of local food, including The Uptown Cafe, C3, Blu Boy, Rainbow Bakery, No Coast Reserve, Hopscotch Coffee, and more. The Vallures will provide entertainment and Cardinal Spirits will be serving up a signature cocktail. Enter the raffle drawing for a chance to win 4 tickets to Disneyland, and other treats from local and regional businesses. Tickets will be available soon [online](#) and at Bloomingfoods!



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