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From your Board President

It was wonderful to see a standing-room-only crowd for our last Wellness Wednesday Workshop, "The Unexpected Joy of the Zero-Waste Kitchen" with Nikki Pohl. Clearly, we hit a nerve and there are many in our community looking at how to reduce their impact on the planet. Our staff continue to look at ways we can make it easier to shop waste-free, which includes projects like increasing our bulk offerings, stocking high quality reusable containers (mesh produce bags, cotton drawstring bulk bags, beeswax wraps, bail wire glass jars, silicone ziploc bags, etc), offering more educational programs, and trying to stock more products with responsible packaging. Clearly we have a long way to go, as does every other grocery store, but we are excited to make changes that will benefit the Earth.

On the Board side, our Product Policy Committee (comprised of board members, owner-members, and staff members) is working hard on a draft product policy to help guide our buying decisions. In addition to packaging, they are looking at ingredients, labor practices, animal treatment, and the overall environmental impact of a product. It's a lot to consider and they have put in a lot of work over the last year. Their goal is to have a draft policy ready for owner-member comment at Co-op Day on Saturday, April 13.

The Board also continues to work closely with Dee and Phil, our Interim General Management Team. They are doing a fantastic job changing our internal culture to be more team-oriented, collaborative, and (dare I say?) cooperative as they work to meet the needs of our shoppers and owner-members. I am very proud of their work and their belief that how we do our work is as important as what we do. They are in the process of introducing a wide array of store improvements; please keep an eye out and let us know what you think. Your feedback is an essential part of our growth and we are grateful for everyone who has taken the time to fill out a customer feedback form, share their ideas with a staff member, or e-mailed a suggestion.

I wish I had an update on our future planning efforts but the truth is that it's a slow process. Rest assured that we continue to gather information and we will be inviting your input when we have something concrete to talk about. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out with your questions or ideas.

As always, thank you for your support of Bloomingfoods.

Maggie Sullivan, Board President



LOCAL FOCUS

For March's LOCAL FOCUS, we celebrate a brand new vendor from Clinton, Indiana! Join us in welcoming Gary's Country Kitchen to the co-op family.

Enjoy 30% off Gary's Country Kitchen's 100% pure raw local honey, salsa, fruit butter, and preserves every Saturday in March!



Even though February is a short month, co-op shoppers really came through by rounding up \$8,853.13 for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard for our Positive Change program. That's \$17,035.15 raised for the community so far in 2019! Thank you, as always, for helping us make an impact on our community!

\$8853.13 IN FEBRUARY!



For the month of March, join us in supporting [Shalom Community Center!](#) Shalom Community Center is a local organization that serves as the central hub for hunger and homelessness services in Bloomington. They provide services such as food, shelter, housing, employment support, and more. They are one of the busiest social service agencies in town, relying heavily on volunteer support to provide its many life-saving services to the community.

[Learn More](#)



WELLNESS WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS

The Wellness Lifestyle: A Wellness Recipe for Real Life

Wednesday, March 20 | Bloomingfoods East Patio Room | 6-7pm

Join Chef Dan Orr from FARM Bloomington and Dr. Kelly Jo Baute as they share their wellness journey and teach you tips and techniques for healthy cooking and purposeful movement at the East Side Bfoods.

[Learn More or RSVP](#)

Wellness Wednesday Workshops take place in the Bloomingfoods East Patio Room from 6-7 pm. These free classes are designed to allow owner-members to teach the Bloomingfoods community new skills to enhance their well-being and happiness.

Interested in offering a future class? Contact Maggie at maggie@bloomingfoods.coop

Click [here](#) for the full schedule.



Spring break is upon us, and we want to spend that time celebrating those who stick around! Each day during spring break, enjoy 20% off specific local products during our Locals for Locals promotion.

MONDAY: Field to Pantry Bulk Natural Popcorn

TUESDAY: Chocolate Moose Ice Cream

WEDNESDAY: All Local Produce

THURSDAY: All Local Meat & Cheese

FRIDAY: All Local Packaged Coffee

SATURDAY & SUNDAY: All Local Beer



Thursday,
March 14 is
Pi Day!

\$3.14 Mini Pies

\$3.14 off Full
Sized Pies



Coming to our East store April 13: Visit baby chicks from Rhodes Family Farm, enjoy a seed-starting demo for the kiddos, sign up for gardening giveaways, and more! We can't wait to celebrate all things SPRING with you at our next Co-op Day!

Upcoming Board of Directors Meetings

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

Meetings will be held at Dimension Mill, 624 N Madison St, unless otherwise noted.

- Thursday, March 28
 - Thursday, April 25
 - Thursday, May 30
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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Garden plot registration is open for Willie Streeter and Butler Park Community Gardens! Registration will continue on a first come, first served basis until all plots are rented. There are still vacancies in both gardens, so reserve yours soon. For more information, [click here](#).

Bloomington Winter Farmers' Market - Saturdays @ Harmony School, December 2 - March 31

Parks & Recreation Gardening Classes

Bloomington Community Farmer's Market: Saturdays at Showers Commons, April - November; Tuesdays on North Madison near Bloomingfoods Near West, June - April



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