

First Alternative NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Fresh, local, organic groceries for everyone

North Store: 2855 NW Grant Ave • South Store: 1007 SE 3rd St

The 
SCOOP
February 2022



*From the
General
Manager*
**Cindee
Lolik**

The dawn of the New Year in 2021 found us optimistic about the future and working on a few of our classic events from a virtual perspective thinking we would be looking at more normal conditions in the spring and summer. Unfortunately, that was not to be the case and, while we had a refreshing but short interlude this summer when the mask mandate was lifted and it seemed like we were going to get the better of the virus, our decision to not plan large events was prudent.

Then came the fire that destroyed the annex building that housed our Commissary, the Marketing department, the receiving and

storage areas for South Store grocery, our Facilities Manager's office and equipment, and paper records dating back decades in some instances. We were very fortunate that the combined efforts of the Corvallis, Albany, Philomath, Tangent, and Adair Fire Departments were able to keep the fire confined to that building, leaving the store undamaged and able. With quick response from our Oregon Department of Agriculture inspector, we re-opened the very next day. A fire wall saved our records but the rest of the building was determined a total loss.

We have been working diligently the past year on developing new plans to build the annex back and to make sure that we are considering not only the present but the future with our new building. We are working with Gerding Builders, LLC and hope to see ground broken sometime this month.

After the fire, we needed to find a place to reopen our Commissary temporarily that made sense in terms of size and distance from our stores. The Commissary produces the vast majority of the Grab 'N' Go offerings in our Deli, as well as supplying the salad and hot bars, and baked goods like our muffins, croissants, and scones. In the meantime, our great Deli staff reached out to local vendors to fill in the gaps and some of those vendors actually reached out to us as well. Our thanks go to Wild Yeast Bakery, Bodhi Bakery, Trazza Foods, Higher Taste, Elegant Elephant Bakery, Whole Flower Farms, Mamalia's Baklava, and New Cascadia Bakery.

We were able to relocate our Commissary to the old Big River Restaurant downtown and, with the help of our landlord, Alan Ayres, were able to make it a functional space to begin production. We

Continued on the next page...

February Board Committee Meetings

Owners interested in virtually attending meetings should contact BREC@firstalt.coop for details.

Board Recruitment & Elections Committee: Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.
Tuesday, February 8, 6pm

Owner Relations Committee: The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.
Wednesday, February 9, 6pm

Finance Committee: Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.

Wednesday, February 16, 4:30pm

Strategic Planning Committee: Develops strategic plans consistent with Board's vision and direction.
To be determined. Email cindee@firstalt.coop for info

Board of Directors: Elected Owners putting our principles into action. **Tuesday, February 22, 6pm**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

**Open daily
7 am - 9 pm**

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cannot thank Alan enough for his support and assistance. The space is not ideal for a Commissary kitchen and our offerings are more limited than in the past, but our Commissary staff is working wonders despite the adversity.

I'm disappointed to let you know, if you've not already heard, that Fireworks is closed and is not going to be reopening. We have valued our relationship with Ocean Liff-Anderson over the years and wish him well in whatever new endeavor he pursues. Thank you for the all great food and live entertainment over the years, you will be missed!

We will be using the building as storage during our construction project and meeting space—once meeting in groups makes sense again—but will not be renting it out as our plans for the South Store may include that piece of property in the next two to three years. Wouldn't it be great to have wood-fired pizza at the Co-op someday?

In terms of new beginnings, we're getting closer to refinishing the old Purple Moon coffee kiosk and almost ready to install a new floor. We will keep you updated on its reopening under the First Alternative brand in the coming months. We're excited about this

addition to our Deli at the South Store and look forward to a pleasant drive through for coffee and other goodies! Another shout out to John Bain and his family for making such a wonderful donation to the Co-op!

Last but certainly not least, a number of our staff are going to be doing some Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (JEDI) work over the course of the next year. This includes our small JEDI committee of staff who will be doing some intensive trainings on microaggressions and how to speak up as a bystander when incidents occur. We also will be pursuing some online training through the National Cooperative Grocers that is making some DEI trainings available to us for free this year.

Our staff has been absolutely incredible during the last year (and the year prior) making sure that we have the groceries on the shelves, keeping a positive and friendly attitude even when the going has been as tough as it has been, and supporting each other and our community in unprecedented times. The Co-op is grateful for their dedication and hard work.

A big thank you also goes out to you, the reader and shopper, we appreciate your loyalty and support this past year. We literally could not do it without you. 🥰

Interested in Serving on the First Alternative Co-op Board?

Collaboratively guide the Co-op's vision, mission, and goals into the future

Work with other community members

Contribute professional skills to a local cooperative business

Learn more about First Alternative Co-op

Represent the interests of Co-op Owners

15% Discount

Owners interested in candidacy should contact the Chair of the Board Recruitment and Elections Committee at BREC@firstalt.coop. Board application packets are available on our website, www.firstalt.coop, and at customer service in both stores. Applications are due by March 31.

Elections will be held June 1-15.





OWNERS

Make a difference at your Co-op

The First Alternative Co-op Board is currently recruiting Owners to serve on the Board Recruitment and Election Committee (BREC).

This committee meets monthly and helps support the mission of First Alternative Co-op.

Owners serving on a committee get a 15% discount (1 week for every 2 hours worked) on all Co-op purchases.

You would be involved in:

- Recruiting potential candidates
- Facilitating the annual election
- Ensuring a fair democratic process

If you are interested, please contact BREC@firstalt.coop by March 1.

Interested in joining a committee? Questions?

First Alternative Co-op Board
faboard@peak.org

BREC:
Jim Mitchell, BREC Chair
BREC@firstalt.coop

Community
Owned
O-
Pregon
Proud

Co-op Board Committees Roundup

The Board Recruitment and Elections Committee is tasked with the recruitment and orientation of board members, with developing and maintaining procedures for elections and referenda, and with implementing and supervising elections.

The Finance Committee is tasked with ensuring that timely, accurate, and understandable financial reports are provided to the Board; making recommendations to the Board on financial issues; and reviewing annual budget guidelines and procedures.

The Owner Relations Committee is tasked with being the primary conduit for communication and insight between Owners and the Board through facilitation of Owner meetings and Owner surveys, as well as exploring/devising other means for obtaining Owner input.

The Strategic Planning Committee is tasked with developing strategic plans consistent with the Board's vision and direction.



It's your Co-op.
Own it.



Save • Earn • Support • Vote

To get all the details and become an Owner visit
firstalt.coop/ownership

The Co-op welcomed

41

**new Owners in
December!**



WINE SALE

Sat. Feb. 12-
Mon. Feb. 14

20% OFF

all regularly
priced wines
(while supply lasts)



TUESDAYS 15% off produce

FOR STUDENTS
with a valid student ID from an Oregon college



First Alternative
NATURAL FOODS CO-OP



Join the Co-op Board





CO-OP OWNERS

Consider running for a position on the Board!

**Help shape the future of the Co-op
and get a 15% discount on groceries.**

Learn more about serving on the Co-op Board
on page 2 and visit firstalt.coop to download an
application. Applications due March 31.

Contact BREC@firstalt.coop with questions.

Fresh from the Co-op Kitchen...




Marionberry
Cheesecake!

*Treats
for local
lovers and
lovers of local!*

The Co-op Connection



Scan this QR Code with
your smart phone to join
our email list. You will receive
twice-monthly emails
(plus occasional special
announcements.)



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news, giveaways
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offers, and more.

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