

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 2024



*From the First Alternative
General Manager*

Cindee Lolik

2023 saw the Co-op making progress in a number of key areas. To kick the year off, after almost two years of working at the old Big River Restaurant, our Commissary staff returned to their new home in the Annex on the South store campus in February of 2023. We applaud the Commissary Manager, Kalon Russell and his Kitchen Managers, Justin Heistand and Kaylee Tynan and their crew for being able to keep the

Co-op supplied with wonderful, tasty food during their downtown exile. Since returning they have been able to ramp up production and brought back breakfast at the hot bar last year. We'd planned to roll out hot lunch in mid-January but were waylaid by the ice apocalypse! Look for it in both Deli locations sometime this month.

Opening up the first floor of the rebuilt Annex also allowed our South Grocery Team to use it for their back stock, which made the store's back room a bit less cramped and easier to work in. The break room was a part of this construction and that meant the meeting room was able to return to being a meeting room again (although we have a few issues to deal with before we can reopen to the public, like replacing the roof and the heating and air conditioning system, slated for this year).



The Co-op Kitchen is excited to be cooking for you again! Head to the Deli and taste the love!

The second floor of the Annex is well underway, and we thank our generous Owners for loaning us additional funds to make sure we could finish off the building—we will be moving all the administrative offices over there in mid-February and the managers at the South store will move out of the shared office they currently occupy to some more spacious digs that

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February Board Committee Meetings

Owners interested in virtual attendance should contact BREC@firstalt.coop for details.

Owner Relations Committee:

The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.

Monday, February 12, 6pm

Board Recruitment & Elections Committee:

Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.

Wednesday, February 14, 5pm

Finance Committee:

Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.

Wednesday, February 14, 4:30pm

Board of Directors:

Elected Owners putting our cooperative principles into action.

Tuesday, February 27, 6pm

**Two locations
Open daily
7 am - 9 pm**

**Everyone is
Welcome**

From the Board of Directors,

Cindee Lolik

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will allow them more privacy and quiet space.

The Co-op began working with the Sustainability Coalition and the Oregon Clean Power Co-op in 2023 to install solar panels at both store locations and on the Annex. This work is currently underway and includes some battery back up in the Annex that will power their walk-in refrigeration and freezer should the power go out.

This was obtained through a grant from Pacific Power that the Oregon Clean Power Co-op secured for First Alternative. The Co-op also applied for a grant for fast chargers for electric vehicles and were awarded the grant by Pacific Power. We would like to thank Visit Corvallis and the Economic Development Department of the city for their letters of support! Progress on those is moving forward with the goal of getting them on line in the late spring or early summer.

Both stores are boasting new wet racks, those are the produce cases that contain leafy greens and those produce items that need to be kept damp to stay

South Store Annex Ribbon cutting ceremony with Owners & Corvallis Chamber of Commerce



fresh and the cases look beautiful! You know, the cases that spray you when you reach for that head of fresh local lettuce – at least I seem to reach just when the water is set to spray. We were also able to secure a grant from Organically Grown Company, our primary produce supplier, to purchase some new merchandising materials for the cases and you should see the results of that once the equipment comes in.

An exciting announcement as well—the Co-op has been nominated as Best Large Business of the Year for *Celebrate Corvallis!*, the Chamber's yearly celebration of our community! Go Co-op!

GUIDE THE FUTURE, JOIN THE BOARD!



Do you have an interest in the Co-op's **vision, mission & goals?** Help lead the Co-op into the future!

Owners interested in joining, Contact the Board Recruitment & Elections Committee: BREC@firstalt.coop

Board applications can be found online at: firstalt.coop/governance
Applications due **March 31st**



First Alternative Co-op | Board of Directors



Benton County's courthouse—in use since 1889—is the oldest county courthouse still being used for its original purpose in Oregon. It no longer meets our county's needs. With construction of a new courthouse planned, county leaders are committed to preserving and giving new purpose to this iconic landmark.

Community feedback in this early stage of planning is a vital part of creating a plan for the future of this community treasure. The Historic Courthouse



Committee is developing ideas for reusing the historic courthouse and wants to hear from the community on preliminary ideas. Provide input by completing the community comment form before Feb 15. Scan the QR code to get started!

BEANS 4 BAGS

JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH

- Coastal Range Food Bank
- Community Outreach Inc.
- Old Mill Center for Children and Families
- Unity Shelter

Bring your reusable bags and help support local charitable organizations!

More details at firstalt.coop/donations



Get the Co-op Connection

Twice-monthly email updates from your Co-op featuring sales, news, community happenings, and more.

Scan the QR code to sign up today!



Owners, sign up for monthly, Owner-exclusive coupons!

Follow First Alternative

For up-to-the-minute news, giveaways, recipes, special offers, and tons of cooperative fun.

@firstaltcoop    

Facebook • Instagram • YouTube • TikTok

The Co-op welcomed...



new Owners in December



The future of our food system can be strengthened with a local food hub that seamlessly connects food producers and customers.

A team of local food system and community development specialists recently received approval from the City of Corvallis to lead a South Corvallis Food Hub Project.

What's a Food Hub?

It's a bridge connecting local food producers to consumers, making our food system stronger, boosting economic opportunities for farmers, and giving communities access to fresh, local goodies—and it needs your help to succeed!

Passionate volunteers are needed.

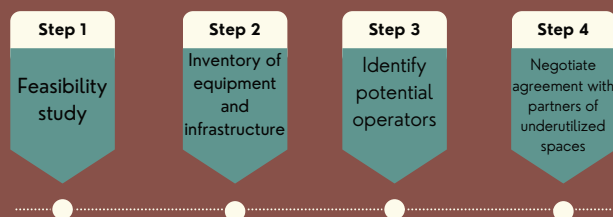
Interested in helping the project? First, scan the QR code to visit their website, where you can learn in detail about the project, and join their mailing list to help you stay up-to-date, track project progress, and learn about volunteer opportunities that might be perfect for you.



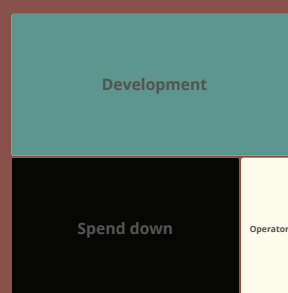
southcorvallisfoodhub.com

Project Timeline

PHASE 1: JANUARY - MARCH, 2024



PHASE 2: APRIL 2024 - COMPLETION



- Operator**
Establish partnership with operator to carry out the Food Hub development
- Development**
Carry out the selected project development.
- Spend down**
Project manage the spend down of the ARPA funds for the establishment for a Food Hub

Everyone is welcome!

We encourage the use of inclusive language because our Co-op community includes people with a variety of identities.

Inclusive language includes terms like these until you know a person's pronouns:

people, person, folks, they, them

Thank you for helping us create a safe space!