

# 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**  
January 2024



*From the First Alternative  
Board of Directors*

**Jeremy  
Northway**

As we prepare to bring 2023 to a close, the Board is excited to look back at the year the Co-op had and plan for the one to come. This past year held some important milestones, from the completion of the Annex reconstruction at the South Store and the Co-op Commissary's return to its new home there, to the gradual return of the North and South Deli's hot bar offerings, and the anticipated opening of the



Co-op Coffee Kiosk (formerly Purple Moon), and our continued planning for the future of First Alternative.

We also welcomed three new Board members: Kestrel, Kate, and myself, and had the opportunity to get better acquainted at our October retreat. With the first full ten member Board in several years, we are a motivated bunch by any measure. The organization has much to be excited about, and everyone involved in the Co-op community deserves heartfelt thanks for all the work and effort that has gone into the last twelve months!

With gratitude in mind, it feels like the perfect time to acknowledge some of the holiday giving that the Co-op was able to participate in. Both stores had donation drop-offs for Vina Moses' Giving Tree and CASA's Winter Clothing drive. We donated zucchini and dates for a Samaritan Village holiday fundraiser, and made a donation of teas for The Foundry Collective to sell at the Winter Light Fair. All of this was possible thanks to the participation and generosity of First Alternative's Owners, customers, and staff. We are grateful for the opportunity to give back to this community that has supported First Alternative the past 53 years.

Looking forward, the Board anticipates a productive year in 2024. We continue to explore options for an expansion of our space at the South Store and are in the process of reviewing market studies

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## January Board Committee Meetings

*Owners interested in virtual attendance should contact [BREC@firstalt.coop](mailto:BREC@firstalt.coop) for details.*

### **Owner Relations Committee:**

The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.

**Monday, January 8, 6pm**

### **Board Recruitment & Elections**

**Committee:** Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.

**Wednesday, January 10, 5pm**

### **Finance Committee:**

Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.

**Wednesday, January 17, 4:30pm**

### **Board of Directors:**

Elected Owners putting our cooperative principles into action.

**Tuesday, January 30, 6pm**

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

**Everyone is  
Welcome**

From the Board of Directors,

## Jeremy Northway

*Continued from previous page...*

and architectural plans conducted by local firms. We are excited to see these ideas and combined vision crystallize into an actionable plan!

The year ahead will see events, meetings, and Board elections. Our local impact will continue to make meaningful contributions to the community and each of us has a part to play in this work. There are many ways to participate. One of these is as a part of the Co-op Board.

We welcome and encourage any interested Owners to attend our monthly Board and committee meetings. All input is helpful and your voices can help us make choices that grow the organization and all that it does.

We hold Board elections in June, applications for this are due at the end of March. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions on the process at [board@firstalt.coop](mailto:board@firstalt.coop), or the Board Recruitment and Elections Committee specifically at [brec@firstalt.coop](mailto:brec@firstalt.coop).

We look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you in 2024, Happy New Year to all of you!



**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](https://firstalt.coop/donations)**



## 2023-24 Co-op Board of Directors



Jasmin Woodside  
President



Emily Stimac  
Vice President



Dana Monroe  
Secretary



Rob May  
Treasurer

The Co-op Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers elected by Co-op Owners to guide the store through Policy Governance. This means that although they are not involved in day-to-day store decisions, they shape these decisions through the development of Co-op policy and vision.

**BOARD MEETINGS**  
**Last Tuesday of each month at 6 pm**

Each meeting begins with a ten-minute period for Owner comments. Email is also welcome: [FABoard@firstalt.coop](mailto:FABoard@firstalt.coop).



Kestrel Bailey



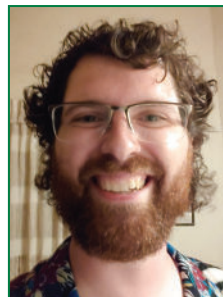
Jeff Contreras



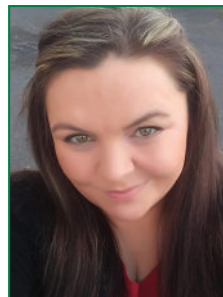
Frank Hall



Patrick Monroe



Jeremy Northway



Kate Woods



# Customer Q&A

Answering the Co-op Community's Questions

**Q:** Will there be any improvements to the electric car charging stations in the near future?

**A:** We currently have Blink charging stations at our North Store location. The infrastructure & capacity of the current building at this location provides some limitations on upgrading to higher power charging stations. We hope to be able to apply for a grant in the future that would allow us to upgrade these. Meanwhile, we are excited to have received a grant from Pacific Power to install fast chargers at the South Store. The grant process is currently underway and we do not have an estimated installation date, but will be sure to update the community as soon as we do.

—Cindee Lolik, General Manager

YOU ARE INVITED TO

## Gearing Up For Gardening

### Surprising Plant Phenomena

Beginning at Noon

January 9 - The Good Guys and the Bad Guys - Native Plants and Invasives - Michael Ahr and Sara Roberts of Benton Soil & Water Conservation District

January 16 - Poisonous Plants - Who Knew?? - Lisa Borgerson, Benton County Master Gardener

MONDAY January 22 - If You're Going to Use Pesticides - Be Safe! - Jennifer Gervais, College of Agricultural Sciences, Environmental and Molecular Toxicology

January 30 - Yes, You Can Grow Vegetables Without Irrigation - Dryland Gardening - Darren Morgan, Nursery Manager at Shonnard's Nursery

February 6 - Another Surprise! Growing Subtropicals in Oregon - Todd Anderson, Oregon State University, Dept. of Horticulture

February 13 - Yes, Climate Is Changing. Learning to Garden in a Changing Climate - Joleen Schilling, Chemeketa Community College Dept. of Horticulture

February 20 - We Can Also Grow Citrus! - Kneque Chaffin, Home Grown Gardens

February 27 - Last Surprise! Garden Myths - Janet Magedanz, Benton County Master Gardener

**Corvallis-Benton County Public Library**

In collaboration with and support of  
 Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener

 Benton County Master Gardener Association

Co-Sponsored by  
 Corvallis-Benton County PUBLIC LIBRARY

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by two weeks ahead of the event to Otilia Schreuder, 541-730-3471 Ext 73006 or otillia.schreuder@oregonstate.edu

## 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!



## 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 November



## ANNUAL MEETING

Wed., Jan. 10 • 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Corvallis Community Center

*Want to hear some GOOD news? Join us!*

Details at [SustainableCorvallis.org](https://SustainableCorvallis.org)



*Thank you to our Annual Meeting sponsor*

## Join us for the Sustainability Coalition's Annual Meeting, Wednesday, January 10

Join us for gnoshing, networking, and good news about all the sustainable success of 2023 at the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's Annual Meeting, which the Co-op is once again proud to sponsor.

This free community event will take place on Wednesday, January 10, from 4:30-6:00 pm at C3, the Corvallis Community Center, located at 2601 NW Tyler Ave

**Save the date:** the Sustainability Fair & Town Hall will be taking place on March 7, 2024. Look for details at [sustainablecorvallis.org](https://sustainablecorvallis.org) and on their social media feeds!



## 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!**