



For followers and supporters of the Food Shed Co-op - February 28, 2023

1617 OWNERS AND COUNTING!

Click [HERE](#) or on any *Become an Owner* button!

Food Shed Co-op in the News

In case you missed it, Food Shed General Manager Peter Waldmann was recently interviewed by Tricia Carzoli of the [Woodstock Independent](#). In the February 20, 2023 article (Business Section), Waldmann was able to share a number of updates. Here are some of the highlights from the article.

If you have been following the co-op's progress, you may know that it originally began forming nine years ago. Waldmann shared that it is not unorthodox for co-ops to take numerous years [from conception to realization].

Readers of the article learned that the Food Shed Co-op has its sights on a fall/winter 2023 opening with a groundbreaking this March or April. "Construction is complex, but we are telling our 1,600 owners that we hope to be complete by the end of 2023," he said. Soon after being hired on as General Manager, Waldmann got right to work creating a design plan and working with a local architect.

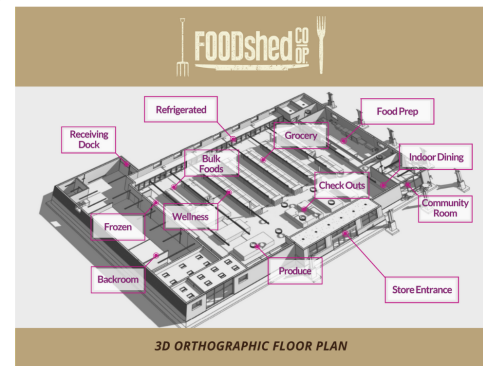
"One thing we want to stress," Waldmann said, "is that this grocery store is open to everyone. Sometimes there is confusion around co-ops. Owners help make decisions, but anyone can shop here."

According to the Food Shed website, the mission of the co-op is to "build a local food cooperative promoting a healthy, ethical, and resilient community." Considering that, the co-op will support local farmers but also will work toward a more nutritious offering and a more sustainable grocery store methodology.

"What will make us really unique is our zero-waste goal," he said. "Zero is a big number. We have a food market that will be closely monitored throughout the day. We will be paying close attention to quality, so [we are never wasteful]." He explained that any produce that has a bruise or cut will go to the store's food preparation area where it will be cut, and the healthy portion utilized for the pre-cut fruits sales or used for the juice bar. When the juice bar stock is too full, it will be used in the deli and food prep area for other purposes, including soups.

An outdoor area just off the market with tables and umbrellas is planned. There will also be a bulk area within the store designed to allow customers to buy in larger quantities at a discounted rate, but also at smaller quantities to allow customers to be less wasteful. He stressed that up to 25 percent of all items will be locally sourced, and the Food Shed Co-op is working to obtain a permit to allow local growers to sell small-batch garden yields so food is not going to waste.

Waldmann said the full-service grocery store plans to hire about 25 people, with 60 percent of them full-time positions that would be paid at a competitive rate. "This has been a lengthy process, but it is exciting to be here on the cusp of breaking ground."



Gotta Have One!

Check out this great, new, heavy-duty canvas market bag festooned with the Food Shed Co-op logo! It has two bottle holders on each side and room for lots of goodies in between. The bags will be available for purchase at our Food Shed Co-op tabling events, including our various farmers markets. Or, YOU CAN GET ONE FOR FREE! Anyone who becomes an owner by [clicking any sign up link within this newsletter](#) will have one delivered to their doorstep. Another great reason not to wait. Join us!



Looking Forward to Gardenfest

We are pleased to help promote an exciting local event celebrating everything related to gardening in McHenry County. Usher in spring and earn your green thumb at the annual McHenry County Gardenfest. Learn about new garden trends, plants, and techniques at this day-long series of garden-related seminars and workshops. [Gardenfest 2023](#) will be held SATURDAY, April 15 at McHenry County College from 7:30am to 4:00pm. Gardenfest is an annual educational event co-sponsored by MCC and the University of Illinois Extension McHenry County Master Gardeners. Exhibitors will also be onsite selling garden-related items. The day offers something for every gardener - from landscape design to edibles, native plants, and pollinators. The Food Shed Co-op will also be there with an information table to share our story with visitors. We look forward to seeing you there!



We need your support. Please join the residents and families who believed in the vision of opening a community-owned grocery store!

[BECOME A FOUNDING OWNER NOW](#)
[GET YOUR FREE GROCERY BAG!](#)



We need your support - please click [HERE](#) to join our mission.

Events

[Winter Markets at the Dole](#)

[Dole Mansion](#), Crystal Lake, IL

The Food Shed Co-op is proud to be joining local farmers at the [Winter Farmers Market at the Dole!](#) We will have a FSC table at the market to engage with visitors, update the public about the growth of our up-and-coming store and sign-up new owners.

Sunday, March 12, 2023, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Sunday, April 2, 2023, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Sunday, April 16, 2023, 10:00am to 2:00pm

[Woodstock Winter Farmer's Markets](#)

Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, IL

We will be with our friends again in Woodstock once a month through the winter at their [Winter Market!](#) We are excited to engage with visitors, update the public about the growth of our up-and-coming store and share ways to learn more.

Saturday, March 4, 2023, 9:00am to 1:00pm

Saturday, April 1, 2023, 9:00am to 1:00pm

Gardenfest

McHenry County College, Building B, 8900 U.S. Route 14, Crystal Lake, IL

We will have an information table at Gardenfest! In addition to exploring the latest gardening trends, techniques, and tools through a series of seminars for gardeners of every skill level, you will be able to shop and learn from vendors and exhibitors. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 7:30am to 4:00pm



Help us spread the word about our community owned grocery store by sharing our posts with your followers on social media. And why not [BECOME AN OWNER](#) now?



Mission

Our mission is to build a LOCAL food COOPERATIVE promoting a HEALTHY, ETHICAL and RESILIENT COMMUNITY.

Core Values

- Promote and foster better food choices
- Cultivate and strengthen our local economy
- Inspire and empower community
- Champion environmentally responsible practices

Cooperatively yours,
Food Shed Co-op Board



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