

# GOOD THYMES

# APR 24'



**DNF CO-OP'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**HELP ELECT OUR NEXT DNF BOD!**

# ELECTION SEASON...

**STARTS 4.15.24 -- GET IN THE LOOP + VOTE!**



**PLUS, COME FIND US @ BUCKLEY PARK ON 4/20 FOR AN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**



cup O' JOE



We are having an election for our 2024/25 Board of Directors, this month! Yay! Whoopee! Life is good! Time to celebrate! Toot toot!

Hmmm – does that sound flippant? I don't mean it that way (well... maybe a little bit). But actually, a little flippancy is a good thing as I will explain in a bit.

Our Co-op is a democracy! Kinda -sorta. For better or for worse. Our Membership elects our Board of Directors who, um, have meetings and, um, talk about stuff and, um, pass policy updates. Or so it seems. The Board of a Co-op is of critical importance although few really know what the heck they do. Which also brings up the questions. "who's in control of this place anyway".

Ah Co-ops. They are quite the befuddlement since they don't neatly fit into the normal business parameters. Co-ops in many ways have the structure of a city more than a regular business. But in our case – as in the case of most food co-ops – we ARE a business and hence our unique place in the economy. A community business run by the Members who use it!

So in Co-ops, when you buy an equity share here (\$20 a year), you actually become an Owner of the business. Pretty cool -huh? Jointly together, over 2200 people own our Co-op. And like in a city, they express their control by voting for the Board of Directors. Most people think that the Board of Directors "runs" the Co-op. They do not.

Most of our new wave Co-ops (the Co-ops that sprung up like mushrooms in the '70s – ours being one of them) started as small buying clubs where everything was done by a direct vote of the Members. But as Co-ops grew in Membership and attained store-fronts, it was quite unwieldy to actually run a business this way. Should we carry paper or plastic bags? Well the entire Membership would need to vote after a well-reasoned debate and campaign. Not very efficient.

The obvious answer was to elect a Board to "run" the place. But, again, as the Co-ops grew, that too became unwieldy. Certainly the Board didn't need to vote on paper or plastic bags either. Most Co-ops – but not all – went to a General Manager style of running a business. This person and the Staff run the business.

That made a lot of sense so it was a bewilderment to watch Co-ops in the 80s and 90s struggle with this system. It seems that everyone still actually wanted to run the stores and Boards would overturn the decisions of the GM and the Membership would overturn or recall actions of the Board. Quite the mess. Co-ops struggled on and succeeded despite themselves.

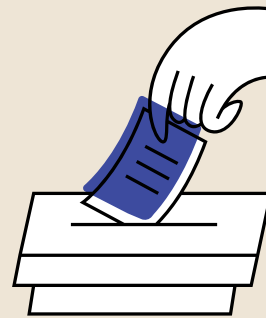
But as the century turned, more competition challenged the Co-ops and this constant struggle of "who's in control" needed to be settled so the businesses can respond to the marketplace quickly and with authority. Hence most Co-ops adopted what is termed "Policy Governance". Regardless of the details...

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9!**



It's time for an...

# Election!



***Here's what to know about our 2024 Board of Directors election...***

DNF is a **representative democracy** that is governed by the BOD.

Any Member-Owner can run for the BOD and all Member-Owners are eligible to vote in the annual elections! (*Applications are closed for this year, but stay tuned and apply for our 2025 Board!*)

The Board is committed to fulfilling DNF's mission, sustaining financial stability, and providing strategic planning for our future. Directors need to have a deep belief in the Co-op's mission and the time to listen, learn, and contribute to its exciting future. In addition to professional development and networking, BOD members receive a 20% discount on all purchases which can be stacked on top of other member discounts.

### ***Here's the schedule of events this year:***

Monday, April 8: Candidate information will be made available for voters in-store and online via the DNF website

**Monday, April 15 - Thursday, April 24: Ballots will be available to vote** in-store or online via the DNF website during a 10 day voting period

Monday, April 29: Election verified and results announced!

Wednesday, May 8: New Director Training

Wednesday, May 15: First meeting of the new Board

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**MEET THIS YEARS CANDIDATES MON., APR 8TH!**

# Earth Day

## Día de la Tierra

**FREE**

**Sat. April 20 Buckley Park 11-3**

Parade 10:30 | Family Fun | Music | Food | Art

[earthdaydurango.com](http://earthdaydurango.com)



**Make this a zero waste event**

BYO bottle, bowl & utensils

**BRING IT!**



**PLANET VS. PLASTIC**

**MUSIC BY THA 'YOTIES**



**EAGLE INSULATION**

**VISIT DURANGO COLORADO**

**SUSTAINABLE GOODS**

**sage fresh eats**

**Za Taqueria**

Please, no dogs!

**SUSTAINABLE durango**

**CITY OF DURANGO**

**We Fill**

**SAW SOLAR**

**LPEA**  
La Plata Electric Association, Inc.  
A Sustainable Energy Corporation

**1st SouthWest Bank**  
COMMUNITY AT OUR CORE

**DESERT SUN**  
COFFEE ROASTERS

**TABLE TO FARM COMPOST**

**CLIMATE CENTER**

**DESTINATION DRO**

**LIBERTY COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

**WALLS PROJECT**

**the Community Foundation**  
serving Southwest Colorado

**LOCAL FIRST**

**GRASSBURGER**

**DURANGO OUTDOOR EXCHANGE**

**pine needle DRY GOODS**

**INDIVISIBLE DURANGO**

**Great Old Broads Wilderness**



## MEET CAITLIN!

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**SAY HELLO  
TO ONE OF  
OUR  
BELOVED  
DELI STAFF  
MEMBERS!**

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**LET'S  
CHAT**



Check in every month for a  
DNF feature celebrating the  
people who make our Co-op run

1. So, where are you from?
  - a. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan
2. And how did you get here?
  - a. I came for school at the Fort and I stayed for work + other opportunities!
3. When you're not at DNF, what are you getting up to?
  - a. Play music, climb, get out and explore the Four Corners area
4. Anything that might surprise shoppers about you?
  - a. I know a lot about local ecology and native plants.
5. Favorite things about working at the co-op?
  - a. The community, the people that work here, and working with local ingredients in our deli!
6. What is something you are excited to bring to the store?
  - a. A very niche knowledge of produce from my farming experience -- getting to share that with people
7. In preparation for an outdoor adventure, which three DNF products would you bring?
  - a. Mixed Berry Tailwind, Bulk Fig Bars, Dolmas
8. In ten words or less, how would you describe our Co-op to an out of town visitor?
  - a. Sweet little community store with GOOD food.

# GROOVING IN OUR GOLDEN YEARS



Ryan W.

Fifty! How nifty. Imagine if 50 were a person—maybe it'd be that cool, wise uncle with a treasure trove of stories, donning a tie-dye shirt, reminiscing about the kaleidoscopic year of 1974. That was the year when puzzles like Rubik's Cube made the world question its sanity, and groovy beats by ABBA had everyone twirling in their favorite platform shoes.

It was also the year Durango Natural Foods Co-op planted its roots, as fresh and hopeful as the first day of spring.

Hitting the big five-oh is more than just about clocking time; it's about flourishing with flair. Like a disco that never ends, Durango Natural Foods Co-op has seen the styles, tech, and tunes change but has kept the store floor alive with community spirit and sustainable positivity.

From the inception of personal computers to the evolution of smartphones, and from vinyl records to the era of streaming, we've been the community's steady anthem, bringing people together in harmony and health.

Standing at this golden anniversary, we're not just looking back with nostalgia but forward with sparkling anticipation. The next 50 years promise to be an encore filled with more joy, more community triumphs, and even more eco-conscious victories. Durango Natural Foods Co-op isn't just getting older; it's getting wiser, too.

So here's to half a century of being unapologetically ourselves, and to the boundless possibilities ahead. Let's toast with our organic smoothies to the next 50 years of growth, laughter, and, undoubtedly, more unforgettable moments. Because at Durango Natural Foods Co-op, age is but a number, but being part of this vibrant community is timeless.

Cheers to the future—it's looking bright and absolutely fabulous!

**Ryan W.**  
**Marketing +**  
**Communications**  
**Manager**



# SAVINGS ARE COMING



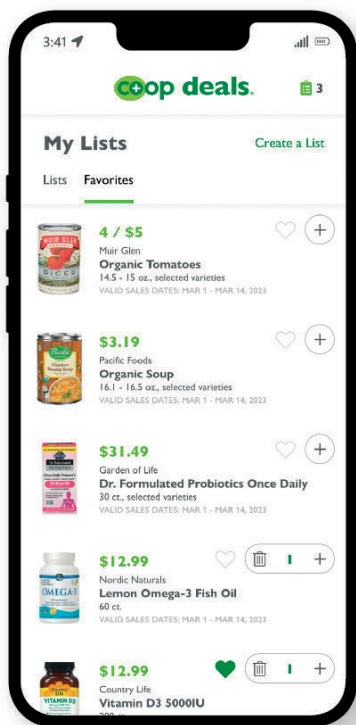
Introducing the Co+op Deals app!



The great deals you love in our printed sales flyer are now available on your smartphone. Browse deals on the go, find information about our co-op (or nearby food co-ops when you're traveling!) and never miss sales on your favorite items.

Download the Co+op Deals app in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Or visit <https://www.deals.coop/> for more info.

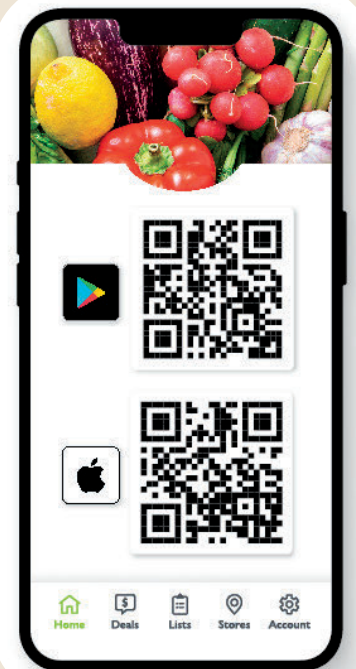


Download the App!

Find your closest  
food co-ops  
See what's on sale  
Never miss your  
favorite deals



Scan the QR Code  
below for a direct  
link to download the  
Co-op Deals app!



*PLEASE NOTE: \*Sale items are spread out over two- or three-week promotional periods, monthly. Because Co+op Deals is a national promotions program for food co-ops who are members of National Co+op Grocers, not all products featured in the flyer will be available at all co-ops.*



# HERE'S WHAT COOKING AT THE DNF DELI THIS MONTH



## DINNER BURRITOS

No longer are we just the best BREAKFAST burrito spot in Durango, DNF is soon to be offering fresh, delicious DINNER BURRITOS in our hot case !

Available now!

## EXTENDED HOURS

In case you didn't hear --our deli is now OPEN LATE Monday-Saturday. Swing by for dinner as we're open 8a-7p M-Sat.

M-Sat Hours: 8a-7p



## PASTRY OF THE MONTH

NEW to the DNF Deli, check out our new pastry of the month: LEMON BARS (GF). Stay tuned as we explore unique, mouthwatering treats that will surely sweeten your day.

Check the case!







# cup O' JOE



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2...

...the purpose was to separate the running of the business of the Co-ops to the GM while the Board monitors what's happening and focuses on long term goals. The GMs were then free to move the stores forward without constantly having to go to the Board and even having their decisions reversed.

GMs are still limited in what they can do. I cannot, for example, choose to buy another building and move the Co-op. That's clearly a Board decision. But what if I decide to get rid of the produce department and replace it with a huge candy corner? I can do that. It is within the scope of operations and is not a Board decision.

Of course, the Board may object and create a policy that states that the Co-op must have a Produce department and I would need to dismantle the wonderful (and lucrative) candy bar I put in. Or not. I could say - no, that's operations and the Board should not be making those decisions. At which point, the Board could choose to replace me with someone who is more aligned with them (please note: this scenario is for illustrative purposes only. I am not removing the Produce department and replacing it with candy - -- why would you even think that?)

And that brings us to the most important function of the Board: hiring a General Manager. This can turn into a long process depending if a Co-op has strong internal candidates or needs to go outside the Co-op to find a GM.

But once it is accomplished, Boards may go into a type of hibernation and they fade from the public mind. That's why a bit of flippancy could be good. It actually indicates a satisfaction as to where the Co-op is.

But what if the Board is satisfied with how the Co-op is progressing but Members are not. Well then the Members can vote the Board out of office. And they have done that at times in various Co-ops for various reasons.

Right now - everything is rather placid at our Co-op. In other Co-ops - there are still Board fights and recall elections and entire Boards resigning. Quite dramatic. In a perfect situation, the Board and GM work hand in hand which is how we have been operating.

Does that mean the Board Election this month is not important? Au Contraire! Monitoring the performance of our Co-op is very important. And also is planning for the future! With good planning, the Co-op operates seamlessly as the GMs transition and the business grows.

Of the people running, who do you think can help our Co-op move forward? Who has future oriented ideas? Who has the expertise to help the Co-op in a crisis? Who can operate in a team harmoniously?

Please read over the candidates statements and take part in this democratic process! Your vote is important and counts! As we celebrate our 50th anniversary of being in business, help us set up the next 50 years with your vote!

**JOE Z. -  
GENERAL MANAGER, DNF**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DNF BOARD

Hello Co-op goers and welcome spring!

With spring comes longer days, warmer temperatures, and the start of new growth...Not to mention the Co-op's 50th anniversary last month! For our farmers it means preparing fields and getting ready for the new season's crops. Every time YOU shop local at the Co-op, YOU are supporting these farmers and your local community. We thank YOU!

With that in mind, it is good to be reminded of why the Co-op is here. We are here to support our local farmers, small-business owners, and community members to have a space to distribute their produce and goods. With elections for a few new board members coming up, it is essential that we elect people who will continue to support the mission of the Co-op to ensure its success and longevity. The current board follows this as our mission statement:

"The Durango Natural Foods Co-op board democratically and cooperatively serves as the voice of our member-owners, working together...



Hadley  
Bevill

... in accordance with the Bylaws and Policy Governance to ensure the present health of the Co-op, while honoring its past and envisioning its future as a food and community hub."

DNF is a representative democracy that is governed by the BOD. So don't forget to fulfill your democratic duty as a Co-op member-owner and vote for new board members April 15-24! You can find information about the candidates and vote on our website at:

<https://www.durangonaturalfoods.coop/vote>

**P.S.**

Save the date for the big party (Harvest Fest) on September 7 to celebrate the Co-op's 50 years of life!

Wishing you all the warmth and happiness,  
Hadley Bevill



# 0%

Not a bank.  
Not the government.  
100% Community funded.

## Interest Loans

For Farmers & Food Entrepreneurs

# ASK TO ROUND UP

*at the register and support local farmers*



Loans up to  
**\$10,000**



**Customize  
your payback**



**1 - 5 year  
terms**

## Who we are

Four Corners Slow Money supports our local food system by offering zero-interest loans to farmers and food entrepreneurs. Loan funds are 100% community funded and voted on by members. We work with each farmer to determine the most feasible payback schedule. Once a farmer or food entrepreneur pays back the loan, those funds go back out to another farmer or food entrepreneur.

**Since late 2019,  
we have awarded**

# \$101,910

**to our local farmers and  
food entrepreneurs**



Just like this greenhouse!

## How to get a loan



- Scan here and apply by January 14th
- February: Members vote on applications
- March: Loan funds dispersed

DuranGoats LLC | Long Table Farms  
Mocking Crow Farms | The Potting Shed  
TerraWalk Farm | Farm to Summit  
Breen Mesa Creamery | Adobe House  
Farm | Humble Fungi | 550 Farms  
Fields to Plate Produce | Outlier Farms  
Pleasant Tree Farm | Sol Vista Farm

# coop deals

APR 3 - APR 16, 2024

## fresh & creamy

Make a yogurt parfait with your favorite toppings for a delicious breakfast or anytime-of-the-day snack. Fage plain yogurt gives you a boost in protein, and the texture is so creamy. Find it on sale at the co-op!



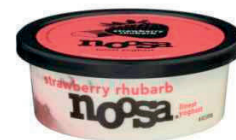
**5.99**

Fage  
Greek Yogurt  
32 oz., selected varieties



**2/\$4**

Just Ice Tea  
Organic Tea  
16 fl. oz., selected varieties



**2.39**

Noosa  
Yoghurt  
8 oz., selected varieties



**3.49**

Van's  
Frozen Waffles  
or Pancakes  
8-12.4 oz., selected varieties



**2/\$7**

Tasty Bite  
Indian Entrees  
10 oz., selected varieties



**3.79**

Late July  
Tortilla Chips  
7.5-7.8 oz., selected varieties



**12.49**

Napa Valley  
Naturals  
Organic Extra  
Virgin Olive Oil  
25.4 fl. oz.



Head into the co-op for springtime deals.

**The tastes of spring.**