



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Monthly Newsletter ❖ August 2020 ❖ Issue 3

Hello Co-op Member-Owners!

We hope that everyone is enjoying the summer so far and staying cool through the recent heat wave. Summer 2020 is quite a different experience from any other time in our lives! The warmer weather certainly can help us feel less confined than we were early in the Spring. With perseverance, we can beat COVID-19 by continuing to use common-sense, social distancing and protective measures like masks and hand-washing. Let's all do our part and practice these measures when out and about. While things are uncertain for the foreseeable future, the Co-op Board is trying to look ahead and see where and how we can get more exposure, get involved, and spread the word about the Village Co-op. We welcome your input!

OPPORTUNITY!

Want to get involved and help create the future of your Co-op!!!

It's Board election time!

This year's election will be held in November 2020 and will be modified to elect individuals to the Board, rather than positions. We will elect 2 individuals to the Board and determine Board positions (officer or member) at the first board meeting held January 2021.

As a Board Member you will have the opportunity to...

- Oversee the fiscal health of the Co-op while maintaining wise stewardship of member-owners' investment and making strategic decisions on its financial future;
- Understand the cooperative movement and philosophy;
- Gain experience in community development and outreach;
- Gain financial and budgetary skills such as approving capital and operating budgets;
- Prepare for and attend monthly and special board meetings;
- Attend and actively participate in training sessions and retreats; and
- Volunteer for Co-op events

If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors, you can also download the application and job description at <https://www.villagecoopmarket.com/elections-2020>. For more information: info@villagecoopmarket.com.

CO-OP

NEWS AND UPDATES

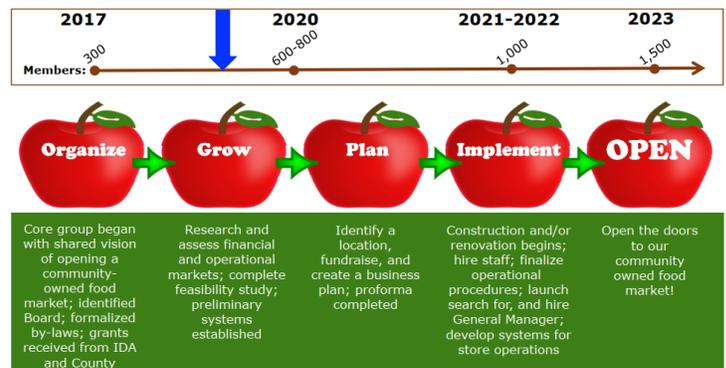
The Village Co-op is trying to focus on social media as a primary means to get the word out to prospective members. Through the efforts of Jon and Peg Carmen, member-owner volunteers, we have increased our followers on Facebook and Instagram, and have more work in development. Jill Komm continues to make valuable improvements to the Co-op's web site. Thank you to these invaluable volunteers!

Other opportunities by which to seek new member-owners have been limited due to the COVID situation. The Village Co-op tent at the Williamsville Farmers Market continues to be a primary means to make our presence known to those who enjoy locally grown produce and other products. Some other tabling events will be possible, including at Independent Health YMCA after they open and can accommodate us.

If you haven't done so yet, please join the Facebook Group for Village Co-op member-owners only. It's a great way to get up-to-the-minute updates and news, learn, share and connect with your fellow owners! Search for the "VCMW Member-Owner Community" or connect using the link that was emailed to you recently.



ROAD TO SUCCESS



Current Membership:

< 427 > As of 8/11/20



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Own it! Show it!

We still have Village Co-op t-shirts available! Get yours at the Co-op tent at the Farmers Market for a \$10 donation. Many sizes still left (adult and kids).

FRONT



BACK



We also have lawn signs to show that you are an owner. If you don't have one and want to display your pride of owning a Co-op, stop by the tent at the Farmers Market on Saturdays.



BE IN THE KNOW

Want to know more about co-ops? Want to get a better idea of what our co-op will be like? Check out some of our fellow co-ops around the country that are either on their journey to opening a store or have a successful store already...

<https://civileats.com/2020/05/15/community-food-co-ops-are-thriving-during-the-pandemic/>

<https://civileats.com/2018/02/28/can-food-coops-survive-the-new-retail-reality/>

Next Village Co-op Board Meeting

Wed., August 26 | 6:30pm | Zoom virtual mtg.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87698256303?pwd=S0pST1oxYzkzTW1wdUZ5dmVBYTd4QT09>

Dial: 1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 876 9825 6303
Passcode: 315434

VOLUNTEER spotlight



Peg and Jon Carmen, two of our member-owners, have really stepped up to the plate and have been volunteering as a team to help create a much needed stronger presence on social media!

Jon and Peg Carmen have lived in Williamsville for 18 years, relocating from Boston, MA. They have two teenagers at Williamsville South.

Peg Carmen is a WNY Native who has worked in professional kitchens as a Pastry Chef for 20 years. She is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Baking Program at Erie Community College North Campus.

Her husband, Jon, is a serial entrepreneur and has spent the last 20 years building high growth technology companies focused around Adtech.

They both put a heavy emphasis on sourcing and cooking delicious food, local as much as possible. They go out of their way to find great items from local producers and take advantage as much as possible, of whatever is in season.

When asked why they joined the Co-op, they said they "think that a co-op builds community and allows for a convenient way to be connected to where our food comes from." Peg and Jon are very excited about the idea of Williamsville having a Co-op and would like to help move this project forward!

They are surely doing that, indeed! Thanks to this couple for investing their time and expertise in making the Village Co-op closer to a reality!



Check out these short videos to learn more...

What's to Love about Food Co-ops?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpG8wzx1q00>

A Food Co-op In Your Community

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Jh5XFWE4uY>