LIVING NATURALLY a community newsletter



SPRING 2020 THE OPEN DOOR'S GARDEN TO TABLE EARTH DAY

ALLERGY AWARENESS MONTH





LIVING NATURALLY **SPRING 2020**

Nick Seeberger CEO

Ashley Greywitt Marketing Manager **Kelsey Brosius** Design

Susie Hessburg Photography

Store Hours 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Daily 9 a.m.-10 a.m. is reserved for eniors, first responders and healthcare workers Drive-Thru Hours 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Daily for the Basics Bag Program Only.

Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website alleynaturalfoods.com to receive the latest deals and news from Valley Natural Foods

J Keep up to date with what's happening at the co-op @valleynaturalfoods

EXCITING CHANGES ARE COMING....

Your favorite Valley Natural Foods items could be coming to your doorstep. Stay tuned for information in our enewsletter and on our website.



CO-OP HAPPENINGS

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A message from Nick Seeberger on our changing grocery environment.

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See what store changes we have made during the COVID-19 outbreak and a guide for how to stay entertained at home.

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This Earth Day we are making strides to be even greener! Learn what we're doing this year and what you can do at home to reduce, reuse and recycle.

P.10 THE GARDEN CORNER

Learn how to start seedlings in your home and tips for a container patio garden.



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Learn more about food allergies and common symptoms of an allergic reaction.

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Celebrate this Memorial Day with Red, White & Blue Potato Salad, Spicy Pineapple Chicken Kebabs and Watermelon Mint Frosé.

Letter from the CEO **Nick Seeberger**

All of us at Valley Natural Foods, are working hard to ensure as safe of a space as possible for our customers to get healthy, organic, local food. It is encouraging to see how quickly our community is stepping up and doing their part not only for their personal health and safety, but of those more vulnerable in our society; social distancing in the aisles and at the registers, facemasks being worn and washing or sanitizing hands when they arrive at the co-op.

I want to assure you that every decision we make considers the impact it will have on the safety and well-being of our staff and customers. That's why I am excited to "It is encouraging share that we will be launching curbside to see how

pick-up and delivery options for the coquickly our op in April. Providing community is these options for stepping up and our community will doing their part..." reduce the amount of person-to-person

interaction and support slowing the spread of the coronavirus. This program will take the place of the Basics Bag program we launched in late-March. Look for more information at www. valleynaturalfoods.com. Our store will continue to be open and accessible for shopping.

Thank you for trusting the co-op to provide a safe shopping environment and access to the food you need to feed your family. Our key actions to protect the health and well-being of customers and staff are cleaning and sanitizing, practicing social distancing, providing masks for staff and strictly enforcing that staff are symptom-free before coming to work and that they have the financial means to



stay home if sick. To support staff we are allowing them to draw up to two weeks of negative paid time off (PTO), have created a PTO pool that they can draw on for additional time off, provide fulltime staff with short-term disability, and are fully complaint with the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) that provides additional sick time and paid leave. Our staff are doing an excellent job keeping the store stocked and safe, I can't say enough about their hard work.

One thing we all are proud of at the coop is the number of local food growers and producers we work with. Did you know that for each dollar spent at Valley Natural Foods, a \$1.60 is generated in the local economy, that's

1.5 times more than if you spent the same amount dollar spent at at a conventional grocer (source: National Co-op Grocers). Our impact Foods, a \$1.60 is bigger because of our work with local farmers and producers, the wages and benefits we provide our staff and our greater

'For each Valley Natural is generated in the local economy..."

rate of donation than other grocers. Thank you for shopping the co-op during the pandemic so we can continue to have an outsized impact on our community.

Sincerely,

Nick Seeberger

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

We are doing our best to keep you informed of all the changes during novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Our teams are continuing cleaning and sanitizing practices in our store and are working to provide staff resources they need to stay safe, healthy and support their loved ones. Valley Natural Foods is committed to providing healthy food and wellness products to our community and ensuring access to everyone. To follow this commitment, we have made the following changes in our store:

TEMPORARY STORE HOURS

10 A.M.-8 P.M. Open to the public. Our Coffee and Juice Bar is temporarily closed and the drive-thru will only be open for the Basics Bag Program.

9A.M. -10 A.M.

Reserved for seniors, healthcare workers and first responders. Keep in mind we are following the CDC recommendations and suggest anyone at risk to use their best judgement about entering public spaces.

ADDED PRECAUTIONS

To prevent close contact of customers we have limited the number of shoppers in our store to 50 at a time. We ask that those who are able, to limit shoppers to I per family. Staff are also required to wear face masks while working at all times.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We are asking our staff to follow the CDC recommended six-foot social distancing, and we request our customers to do the same.

FULL-SERVICE TO PRE-PACK

All full-service functions such as our hot bar, salad bar, fresh meat case and deli prepared foods have moved to pre-pack/grab & go.







We will evaluate these measures and will continue to be flexible in our operations as this situation continues to unfold. We are grateful you continue to shop with us for your food and wellness needs and will continue to serve you and our community. **For the most up-to-date information please visit our website.**

YOUR ACTIVITY GUIDE

Staying at home can be challenging. Luckily there are many activities you can do for free right now!

GET ACTIVE

• Workout • Have a Dance Party • Go for a Bike Ride • Walk Your Dog • Do Some Yard Work • Yoga • Zumba • Wash Your Car • Try a Workout Video • Create an Obstacle Course in Your Yard • Jump Rope • Play Catch • Start a Garden • Go for a Hike • Foster a Pet, If Able



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GET CREATIVE

Build a fort • Rearrange Your Furniture
Make Wall Art • Try a New Recipe • Paint
Your Nails • Have a Backyard Campout • Brew
Your Own Kombucha • Learn How to Play an
Instrument • Learn a New Language • Pick Up a
New Hobby • Paint • Create a Scavenger Hunt
in Your Home • Play a Board Game
• Put Together a Puzzle



Watch a Performance • Play a Video Game
Listen to a Podcast • Try an Adult Coloring
App • Online Shop at Your Favorite Local Store
• Take an Online Class • Watch a Documentary
• Follow a Blog • Make a Custom Photo Book (Mixbook, Snapfish and Shutterfly to name a few) • Watch a Movie

GET CONNECTED

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• Write a letter • Call a Friend • Video Chat • Host a Virtual Happy Hour, Book Club or Game Night • Send a Text to Check-In on a Loved One

Video Chat Sites: Google Chats, Zoom, Facetime and Skype to name a few!



GET RELAXED

Take a Bath • Do a Face Mask • Meditate
Read a Book • Take Deep Breaths • Drink
Herbal Tea • Journal • Take a Nap • Listen to
Music • Stretch • Sleep In • Watch the Sunrise
• Have a Self-Care Evening • Stargaze
• Daydream • Go for a Drive



GET ORGANIZED

Make a To-Do List • Clean Out Your Closet
 Organize Your Kitchen • Collect All Your
 Recipes and Make a Recipe Book • Match All
 Your Unpaired Socks • Do Your Laundry and
 Put it Away • Go Through Seasonal Clothes and
 Decor • Clean the Inside of Your Car

LETTER from the board



election.

MARK MOSINIAK PRESIDENT - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I consider it a work cooperatively within our process and board privilege to work culture and be faithful to our co-op's mission. As on the Board of a part of their overall responsibilities, all board Directors at Valley members must: Natural Foods and

- found the Commit to a three-year term;
- Attend monthly board meetings and other work to be both • special meetings as they arise. (10-20 hours per month):
- inform you that our co-op's election is held annually Serve on board committees as needed:
 - Build a working relationship with fellow Board members:
 - Never use information gained through their position for personal gain and must always act in the best interest of the co-op.

This year's board elections will begin September I, 2020 and go through September 26, 2020. If you're interested in applying to represent our co-op as a Valley Natural Foods' board member, you can complete an application online at: www.valleynaturalfoods.com/board-candidateapplication/

Candidate qualifications and FAQs can be found at www.valleynaturalfoods.com.

Sincerely, Mark Mosiniak President – Board of Directors

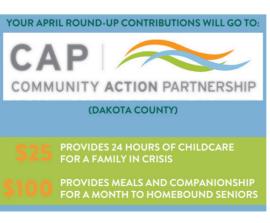
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

APRIL REGISTER ROUND-UP RECIPIENT

Our goal during the pandemic is to see that our community is healthy, fed and employed. To support community health and well-being we are looking to support local organizations who provide food and services to individuals in crisis in Dakota County. We currently have a Register Round-Up program where shoppers have the ability to "Round Up" their remaining change to the next dollar, and have the money go towards an organization in our community.

We normally set this list of organizations annually but have changed our focus and are working quickly to make sure there are resources available for those who need them most. For the month of April, we will have Round-Up Donations go towards Community Action Partnership (CAP) of Dakota County. The CAP agency office is in Rosemount and offers services such as food & nutrition, safe & stable housing and crisis prevention resources.

The agency's food shelf, which operates under the leadership of just one paid employee and many volunteers, is still open, although it's changed the way it gets food in the hands of those that need it through social distancing practices. Instead of local residents setting up appointments to come in and shop around, they send in grocery lists to the workers who do the shopping for them.



DOOR

THE OPEN DOOR PANTRY

Food access for those in need is of great concern, and we are taking steps to support people in our community as much as possible. We have made a \$5,000 direct donation to The Open Door to support their programs seeing that people who don't have access to food are fed.

All Register Round-Up contributions from March were matched by Valley

Natural Foods up to \$5000 and went to organizations offering food to our community, including school partnerships for child food access, food pantries, and organizations providing food to seniors.

COMMUNITY GARDENS PARTNERSHIP

We are excited to announce a partnership with The Open Door to provide fresh, local and organic food to people right

here in Dakota County. The Open Door's Garden to Table program will take over the management of the former community garden plots and through their network of volunteers, will be able to grow and harvest food to provide to patrons of The Open Door Food

The Open Door, with the support of the community, is able to assist thousands of local individuals each month through their pantry

- in Eagan, Mobile Pantries® and Mobile Lunch Box program
- designed to connect those in need with fresh, nutritious options.
- Our mission here at Valley Natural Foods is to support health
- and well-being in the South Metro Community, and in doing so, we want to be sure we are making the biggest impact possible for the most amount of people.

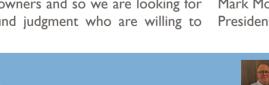
The space has been well cared for and we are excited to evolve the garden to address hunger issues with the hope to provide greater food access in the South Metro. For information on volunteering at The Open Door visit their website at theopendoorpantry.org/get-involved/volunteer.



Pantry.



CALL FOR CANDIDATES





Share your talents and serve our cooperative community as a member of Valley Natural Foods' Board of Directors. Applications are available on our website and due by July 31, 2020. For more information or to apply, visit: valleynaturalfoods.com/board-candidate-application/

of Directors. This year we have two positions up for

Our grocery store is unique because we are a coop and a democratic organization controlled by our member-owners who actively participate in setting our policies and making decisions as part of the Board of Directors. Our member-owners help us maintain the co-op's mission of supporting the health and well-being of our South Metro community through education and expertise in local, sustainable food and wellness services. Our Board of Directors work with management to provide overall direction and ensure the long-range security and viability of our co-op.

challenging and rewarding. As we approach our

annual election, I wanted to write a short note to

to elect new members to our seven-member Board

have

It is critical that board members be accountable to our member-owners and so we are looking for people with sound judgment who are willing to

EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2020



Join us in our commitment for a cleaner planet!

MORE THAN 60 MILLION PLASTIC BOTTLES END UP IN LANDFILLS AND INCINERATORS EVERY DAY

That's more than 22 billion bottles a year!

Last year Valley Natural Foods removed plastic bags from the frontend registers. This year, we are taking a stand against plastic water bottles.

Our goal is to remove all small plastic water bottles from our store by Earth Day 2020. There are a variety of new individual water options available at the store including boxed water and water in aluminum cans.









START REDUCING FOOD WASTE WITH THESE TIPS:

Leave enough space between food items in your refrigerator to allow cold air to circulate properly.

Keep track of what you throw away, if it becomes a habit then consider not purchasing that item the next time you go shopping.

Label your leftovers in the fridge/freezer so you can keep track of how long they have been in there and incorporate them into your weekly routine.

Store food in the correct place, learn which fruits and vegetables belong in the refrigerator and which ones don't.



REUSE VARIOUS ITEMS IN YOUR HOME :

There are various items in your home that you can reuse or repurpose.

Try starting plants in old milk jugs, plastic water bottles or egg cartons. Just place a spoonful of potting soil in each slot, and plant a seed.

Glass jars can be reused for bulk storage, bathroom containers or for canning.

Old towels and clothes can be cut up and used as rags.

Consider donating what you don't need to a shelter or secondhand store for someone else to reuse.



RECYCLING TIPS FROM DAKOTA COUNTY:

Leave caps on containers.

Clean out bottles, jars and containers of most food residue and let them dry.

Plastic containers, jugs and bottles numbered I, 2 or 5 can be recycled, all other plastics have to go to a special recycling plant.

Clear berry or produce containers of inserts and any remaining fruit.

When in doubt, throw it out!

More information can be found online at www.co.dakota.mn.us/ Environment/Residential.

THE **GARDEN CORNER**

very spring, we acknowledge the arrival of warmer temperatures and renewal of life with plants beginning to emerge out of the earth. If you are eager to get into the garden you can get a headstart by planting seedlings at home. If you don't want to start your own seedlings, we will be carrying a small variety of plants from Len Busch Roses available for purchase at the store.

STARTING YOUR OWN SEEDLINGS

Decide what containers you want to use for Keep the seedlings near light, they do best with your seedlings. You can use purchased pots and a fluorescent light, but can also be placed near flats or recycle old egg cartons, yogurt cups and a windowsill. Seedlings will do best with around plastic milk jugs for starting your plants. Before 14 hours of light a day. adding soil, make sure there are a few holes in the bottom of your container to allow for ade- When your seedlings begin to have leaves and quate drainage.

packing your soil too tight, instead tap the con- will help them get acclimated to the conditions tainer on a surface a few times to settle the soil. outdoors.

and then stick them in the soil.

After you've got your seeds into the soil sprin- Water immediately and continue to monitor kle them with water. Only water seedlings when your plants. There are great online resources they need it, you can test the soils with your fin- for tending to your plants and even for diagnosgers to see if it is too dry or not.



stems you can begin to "harden them off." You want to move them outdoors for periods of Add potting mix to your containers and avoid time that get progressively longer each day. This

Follow directions on your seed pack for what When the risk of frost is over it is usually safe depth to plant your seeds at, if you're unsure to transplant your seedlings. Be sure to grab the check out some of the websites on the follow- plant by the root system rather than the stem ing page. You can label your containers using and place them as deep as their root system popsicle sticks with the plant name on them is into your garden or a bigger container for a patio garden.

ing common plant dieseases on the next page.

CONTAINER **PATIO GARDEN**

If you don't have a yard for gardening you can always try your green thumb at container gardening on your deck or patio. The key to container gardening is sunlight, regular watering and protection from the wind.

The National Gardening Association recommends at least 6 hours of sunlight to grow healthy plants. So be sure your patio space has adequate sunlight before venturing into the world of container gardening.

Potting mixes work best for container plants as they are well aerated and do not tend to inhibit any fungi, bacteria or weeds that could be detrimental later.

Plants that have a larger root system or are root crops, like carrots, will require deeper containers whereas small conatiners work better for lettuces, spinach and peppers.

PLANTS THAT DO WELL IN CONTAINER **GARDENS INCLUDE:**

 Beans 	 Lettuce
 Carrots 	Onions

- Chard
- Peppers Spinach Cucumbers

Squash

- Eggplant
- Herbs
 - Tomatoes

Vegatables grown in containers will need extra fertilizer and watering. Be sure that your containers are able to drain so that your soil and plants do not become prone to disease.

The National Gardening Association has great recommendations for growing containers with different plant combinations. For example, try combining a "tomato sauce barrel" with tomato, herb and onion plants in the container. Then when it comes time to harvest you are ready to make your own pasta sauce!





MORE INFO

The following websites have great information about gardening and container gardening:

garden.org/ www.welcometothetable.coop/ https://dakotamastergardeners.org/

Happy Gardening!

MAY IS FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS MONTH

What is a food allergy?

A food allergy is an abnormal response to a food that is triggered by the immune system.

What is an allergic reaction?

Allergic reactions range from person to person. Someone who is extremely sensitive can react to microscopic amounts of the food or food residue.

Some symptoms of an allergic reaction can include:

- Itchy skin
- Hives
- Skin rashes
- Swelling of the tongue, throat and lips
- Problems breathing
- Wheezing
- Mild stomach discomfort to severe pain
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a reaction is so severe a person may experience anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is an allergic reaction that if left untreated can be life threatening. Anaphylaxis can occur within minutes of being exposed to an allergen and the individual may go into anaphylactic shock which can result in death. A person with this type of reaction will experience a drop in blood pressure that will cause their airways to narrow and breathing to become difficult.

What can you do?

There is no cure for food allergies, although avoiding the foods that cause allergic reactions will prevent symptoms. People with food allergies should familiarize themselves with learning how to read food labels properly and not be afraid of asking how food is prepared at a restaurant or grocery store.

For more information visit: acaai.org/allergies/types/ food-allergy

KNOW THE FACTS

In the United States, 1 in 10 adults has a food allergy.

90%

Although people can be allergic to any food item, 90% of food allergies are caused by what is known as the "Big 8 Allergens." These include:



EGGS

CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY



WITH THESE GREAT RECIPES

THIS FESTIVE POTATO SALAD IS THE PERFECT ACCOMPANIMENT TO YOUR MEMORIAL DAY MEAL

Red, White and Blue Potato Salad

Ingredients

I pound mixed red, white and blue new potatoes

I medium jarred roasted red pepper, drained and patted dry

- and patted dry
- 1/2 cup fresh mint, chiffonade2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- I teaspoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper3 tablespoons olive oil

Serving Suggestion

Add eye appeal to your salad with a colorful mix of red, blue and white new potatoes, drizzled with a light vinaigrette. Meat, fish or tofu done with a white or red balsamic marinade or glaze will bring a sweeter contrast to your meal.

Preparation

Put the potatoes in a large pot and add cold water to cover by an inch. Place over high heat and bring to a boil, and cook for about 10 minutes before checking for doneness. Using a paring knife, pierce the smallest potatoes first, and when the knife enters easily transfer the potato to a colander to drain. Continue checking the potatoes every few minutes. When all the potatoes are done, drain and let cool. Slice the potatoes in half, or quarters if large, and place in a large bowl.

Chop the pepper and add to the bowl, then add the mint. In a cup, whisk the vinegar, honey, salt and pepper, then add the olive oil and whisk to combine. Pour over the potatoes and toss to mix. Serve at room temperature, or refrigerate for up to three days before serving.

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Spicy Pineapple Chicken Kebabs



A PINEAPPLE, COCONUT MILK MARINADE SERVES DOUBLE DUTY AS A TENDERIZER AND, ONCE COOKED DOWN, A RICH, SPICY SAUCE TO DRIZZLE OVER THE GRILLED KEBABS.

Ingredients

I cup coconut milk

- I/2 cup pineapple juice
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons Sriracha sauce
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 large red bell peppers
- I small pineapple, peeled and cored
- 4 medium boneless, skinless chicken breasts

Serving Suggestion

A platter of jasmine or basmati rice studded with shredded coconut and just a dash of curry powder is a great base for the sweet and slightly spicy skewers. They're also a tasty appetizer course, served with a chilled fruity Sauvignon Blanc or Viognier.

Preparation

In a medium bowl, mix the coconut milk, pineapple juice, lime juice, honey, Sriracha sauce and soy sauce. Reserve.

Cut the pepper and pineapple into 1 1/2-inch chunks and add to the marinade. Slice each chicken breast into thirds lengthwise and widthwise into 9 similar-sized pieces. Place in the marinade and toss to coat, then refrigerate, covered, for at least 3 hours and up to 24 hours.

Heat the grill and thread the chicken, peppers and pineapple onto 6 skewers, alternating the ingredients. Put the leftover marinade in a small pot and bring it to a vigorous boil, and cook until a meat or kitchen thermometer reads 165°F and sauce has reduced and thickened. Keep warm until ready to serve.

When the grill is hot, use tongs to dip a wad of paper towel into a tablespoon of vegetable oil and swab the hot grill with it. Place the skewers on the grill and cook for about 5 minutes per side, moving the skewers to a cooler part of the grill if the pineapple and chicken show signs of burning. Serve the skewers drizzled with the sauce.

Watermelon Mint

CELEBRATE WITH THIS FESTIVE, FROSTY, REFRESHING SUMMER DRINK.

Ingredients

3 cups cubed seedless watermelon1 cup frozen strawberries2 cups rosé wine12 large mint leaves, plus more for garnish

Preparation

Place the cubed watermelon in a freezer container and freeze. Just before serving, combine the frozen watermelon, strawberries, rosé and mint in a blender. Secure the lid and blend until smooth. Serve immediately, garnished with a sprig of mint.

Serving Suggestion

Craving more watermelon? Serve the frosé with a fun and easy appetizer—skewers of cubed watermelon and feta cheese drizzled with balsamic vinegar.

Reprinted by permission from WelcometotheTable.coop. Find more recipes and information at www.welcometothetable.coop/.

Mint Frosé

THIS RECIPE IS FREE FROM THE "BIG 8 ALLERGENS"

4 ValleyNaturalFoods.com



13750 Co. Rd. 11 Burnsville, MN 55337



Valley Natural Foods Co-op works in partnership with the South Metro community to support health and well-being through education and expertise in local, sustainable food and wellness services.

Valley Natural Foods Mission Statement