

The Brownsville Co-op is now official:

On July 24th we officially registered articles of incorporation with the State of Oregon as a cooperative with the name of "Brownsville Co-op". We have one year to get our bylaws together and to elect a board of directors and officers. We also obtained a tax ID number from the IRS (filing as a farmers cooperative) and opened an account at keybank (thanks to Shauntelle Scott for helping us get setup). Soon we'll have our checks and will be able to operate normally.

Our first Farmers Market was a success:

We had our first Farmers Market on Saturday July 29th. A decent number of vendors were there and there was a nice showing from the community. Even the weather cooperated to help make the event an enjoyable experience. We will continue to operate the Farmers Market through the summer and through October. If you'd like to help out as a volunteer, contact Marilyn Peterson at 466-3157 or mzpeterson@gmail.com. If you would like to be a vendor at the Farmers Market, contact Anne Stein at 466-5081 or scottanne@proaxis.com.

Please keep in mind that you don't have to be a truck farmer to sell produce at the market. We encourage anyone with garden surplus or live plants to consider selling their extras at our Community Booth and sharing their bounty with the community this way. If you would like to wrap your mouth around some fresh local produce, just show up this Saturday. It's not just produce either, last Saturday we had vendors selling landscape plants, honey, jam, artwork, etc. as well. We're at the parking lot of Randy's Main Street Coffee, except when he is hosting a concert. We'll even have musical accompaniment on August 5th. So come on down and support this cooperative community effort at local sustainability.

The Community Gardens are approved by the City Council:

On July 24th, the City Council approved a lease between the City and Eric and Carla Gerber for the operation of Community Gardens surrounding the Croquet Court there. City water has been installed and is now operational. Garden plots will be approximately 330 sq. ft. and will be available soon. Contact Cheryl Haworth at 466-3395 or clh@proaxis.com for more information.

Food Buyers Club is in the works:

A meeting was held to discuss the complexities of how to match the needs of food buyers with the diversity and minimum order amounts of the food distributor. Our goal is to use Internet technology to obtain a generalized picture of what people want to buy. We will then finalize orders around items that come close to the minimum order amounts. Orders will be made wednesday and thursday, picked up on friday, with surplus available to sell at the Farmers Market on saturday mornings. Certain decisions may be left up to the Club Buyer regarding such things as the variety of apple to buy (based on what specials are available, the condition of the produce, and what most people prefer). Steve Brenner will be writing some software that will automate some of the order consolidation (so we don't burn out too many volunteers in this area anyway:-) We may experiment with some small orders to refine our procedures, but we don't anticipate full scale operation of the Buyers Club until October.

Accounting is in the works:

Marlene Logan has volunteered to do our accounting and Crystal Bear has volunteered to help her setup an accounting system for the Co-op. It's great to have people with accounting experience taking care of this essential function.

www.brownsvillecoop.com is alive:

Yes, Virginia, the Brownsville Co-op does have its own web site. And while it may not have a dash in the domain name, art work by Cheryl Haworth has added a dash to the look and feel of the site. If you can't make it to the meetings, you can check out the minutes online. There's also a calendar to keep track of Co-op events. There's even a list of supporting members....speaking of which....

We now have 23 supporting members:

The \$25 fee from supporting members helps us get our feet planted firmly on the ground, ready to cover the expenses of starting up a new organization and operating three major projects. Response from the community has been very good so far. We encourage all of those who believe in what we are doing to commit this small amount of money to help make it happen. And of course, if you want to volunteer your time and energy as well, that's way cool.

Supporters can send a check for \$25 (made out to "Brownsville Co-op") to:

Stephen Brenner
PO Box 367
Brownsville, OR 97327

Our next Meeting is August 16th:

We're meeting at Randy's at 10am.