



April Events:

Sunday April 1st
April Fools, Easter
[We are open 9am-3pm, No joke!](#)

Friday April 6th @ noon
BOD Applications Due
[Applications are due for qualified candidates running for the board!](#)

Saturday April 7th @ 1pm
Basics of Iridology
[Learn what your Eyes may have to say about you !](#)

Saturday April 7th 1-3pm
Unity Vibration Tasting
[ID required!](#)

Tuesday April 10th, 3-7pm
Indoor Farmers Market
[Join us at the last Ypsi Farmers Market of the Winter Season at 16 South Washington.](#)

Wednesday April 11th
YFC Birthday!!
[Come on in and Celebrate!](#)

Thursday April 12th
Washtenaw Community College
Earth Day Celebration
10am-2pm
[Join us at this free event held at the first floor of the WCC student center.](#)

Saturday April 14th
11am-3pm
Mrs. Pruitt's Cha Cha Salsa
[Come in and taste this Southern staple and family recipe!](#)

312 N. River Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

HAPPY BIRTHDAY YFC!

It is our birthday soon and we want to celebrate with you and review our history. On April 11th, 1975 members of the bag co-op that was in operation formed a non-profit corporation, the "Ypsilanti Cooperative Initiative", the start of what we are today. We are happy to say that we were not alone in this endeavor and a grassroots movement across the country took hold. It was a vibrant time for food cooperatives and over 300 others were formed around that same time. It is astounding to consider that 43 years later the Ypsi Food Co-op is still going strong.

The early version of our Co-op operated by supplying fresh produce and cheese from Eastern Market in Detroit. As fresh fruits and vegetables were not easily obtained, it was more efficient to work together to purchase fresh and affordable produce as a group. The folks contributing to this buying club

also had an interest in foods that were less processed, bromated or packaged. This was a time when brown rice and whole wheat flour were special items only available at special "Nutrition Stores".

Given the interest of these stores was primarily on selling supplements and vitamins the price for real foods were often double what they are today! Organic foods were also not readily available (unless you grew them yourself) but was a concept that existed. Jerome Irving Rodale popularized the concepts of organic produce and sustainability but unfortunately this was not embraced or practiced by the vast majority of agriculturalists at the time. Farmers could not see a market for growing their produce without pesticides, herbicides and chemicals and were focused on profits first and foremost.

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REMINDER:

BOARD MEMBER APPLICATIONS DUE

Running for the Board? Applications are due electronically by Friday at noon, this **April 6th!** Send your bio, photo, application and declarations to board@ypsifoodcoop.org. Remember you must be a current YFC Member in good standing to apply. We wish you luck!

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY!](#)

Saturday April 14th
7:30am-1pm
Kiwani Pancake Breakfast
[Join us at the First United Methodist Church at 209 Washtenaw to support the annual fundraiser.](#)

YFC Social



HAPPY Birthday Continued...

Today, we see that there is a market for natural, organic, local and whole foods and even stores like Wal-Mart are embracing what consumers desire. Co-ops are still relevant today, perhaps more than ever as we continue to be conscientious of where our foods originate and supporting local farmers. Let us cherish how far we have come this month and embrace putting people, the planet and our community first. Buy local and keep this Co-op strong for another 43 years!

UPDATE: DOUBLE UP Food Bucks Program Pause in Earnings



Due to the tremendous increase in demand by SNAP shoppers there will be a shift in 2018

- In April and May of 2018, shoppers will **not** be able to earn Double Up Food Bucks.
- Shoppers **will be able to spend** any Double Up Food Bucks they have earned to date.
- Starting June 1, 2018 shoppers **will be able to earn** Double Up Food Bucks again at grocery stores and **will be able to spend** any Double Up Food Bucks they have earned.

Earth Day– Where did it all begin?

Almost 48 years ago on April 22, 1970 the first Earth Day was held and millions of people took to the streets to protest the current state of our planet. At this time in our history, many businesses were thriving at the expense of the environment and the people living in those areas. Pesticides, industrial waste, smog and other pollutants were threatening our soil, water and air. Why did people start to take notice of this at this time? Dramatic events like the Cuyahoga River Fire of 1969 (This River in Cleveland Ohio was so polluted that some sparks ignited the oils pooled on the River's surface) really started to ignite the public's concerns about what we were doing to our planet.

In 1969, there was also a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California that horrified US Senator, Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. Using the student led anti-war movement as inspiration, Senator Nelson proposed a "national teach-in on the environment" to the media and organized staff and republican support (Pete McCloskey served as his co-chair) to promote the event across the nation. This unique movement was able to unite people and politicians from all walks of life and lead to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the first environmental regulations.

Although we have come a long way from the days where factory workers commonly dumped industrial waste

out the back door of their facility or pumped it into a nearby river– there is still much work to be done. We must all be diligent to ensure we keep the spirit of that first Earth Day in 1970 alive and encourage our leadership to support strong environmental regulations to protect our own and future generations.

Learn more about the origins of Earth Day and talk to representatives from local non-profits, businesses and government organizations at the Washtenaw Community College Earth Day Celebration on April 12th. Read more about this event at [WCC's Events Page](#). We hope to see you there as we share how shopping at YFC is part of a sustainable lifestyle choice.

Bottle Deposit Law:

This Michigan Law was passed in 1976 and requires a 10¢ deposit on certain containers to increase recycling efforts. Since this law was put in place 97% of those containers have been returned for the dime refund. If you are curious about what bottles and cans are accepted here at the co-op please view the list posted on our bulletin board or [CLICK HERE](#). We only accept empty/clean containers and will return up to \$25 per day. Please box them up and bring to the cashier. On a somewhat related note, Calder Dairy Bottle returns are \$1.50 and we accept up to 4 clean bottles a day.

General Manager

Corinne Sikorski

Editor:

Sarah Dettloff

Special Thanks to:

Our Board, staff, volunteers and members!