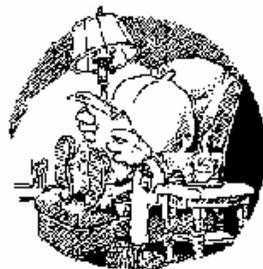




The Garbanzo Gazette

November 16, 2006



Growers Market's Weekly Newsletter

GROWERS TENANTS' & BOARD MEETINGS

The Growers Market Building tenants' meeting will be Monday, November 20th, at 1 pm.

The next two Growers meetings (board meetings) will be Tuesday, November 21st at 5:30 pm, and Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30 pm. If we are not at the round table upstairs in the Growers Market Building, look for us downstairs in the co-op, or elsewhere in the building.

PARKING AT GROWERS

Parking is a problem at Growers. We do not wish to pay for any more free parking, and of course, less driving is better for the environment. The Growers meeting (board meeting) has attempted to forge a compromise between the needs of the Growers Market Building tenants and the co-op, as reflected in the following passage in the Growers Market Tenants Guide (revised October 2006): "Growers Market leases five spaces along the fence on the west side of the parking lot (number 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43). Due to limited parking, tenants are encouraged to use alternative transportation. The parking spaces are available to tenants, but reserved for Co-op shoppers Thursday from 12 pm to 7:30 pm. There is some free parking within a half mile of Growers Market and anyone can pay for parking in the lot by the train station." --Milton Takei

OFFICE FOR RENT

The Growers Market Building has an office for rent as of December 1st. It is Room 207 and there are two rooms, one is 100 square feet and the other is 347 square feet. The smaller room has a window facing south and the larger room has a skylight. The rent is \$260 per month and this includes heat, electric and a DSL line. Preference will be given to non-profit groups involved in socially progressive efforts. Contact Edward at 687-8648 or 485-1426. Applications are available on the bulletin board next to Room 212. The application deadline is Friday, December 17th.

THANKSGIVING HOURS

Growers will be closed on Thanksgiving, November 23. We will also be closed on Friday, November 24th for Buy-Nothing Day. We will be open instead on Wednesday the 22nd, same hours as usual: 2:30 to 7:30. Looking ahead, Christmas and New Years fall on Mondays this year, so they probably won't cause us to be closed. Winter Solstice apparently falls on a Friday, Dec. 22nd, though, so stay tuned. Thanks to all for giving time and energy to keep Growers thriving all year. Martin

THREE STRAWBOSS POSITIONS OPEN!!

1. Refrigerator and freezer stocking on Thursdays about noon-ish for a couple of hours every week. Call Jeanine 461-1614.
2. A reliable, willing-to-be-trained person or persons for 7 to 8 cashier position at least every other Thursday.
3. We need another reliable person to join the closing team every other Thursday, roughly from 7:30 to 8:30 or a little later.

If interested in the latter two positions, call Martin at 744-3265 well before 9 in the evening, or leave me a message on the Growers voicemail 687-1145, or see me when I come in this week.

SPECIAL ORDERING UPDATE

Mountain Peoples (United National Foods) will no longer accept returns after 48 hours from delivery, even if it their error. All returns must be called into them by Thursday, 3:30pm – we get our deliveries on Tuesday morning. Please be careful when filling out special orders. If you make an error or change your mind, you must let me know by noon, Thursdays (since I'm often in transit after that), or check in with the coordinator on duty. Thanx! Sue (688-6679)
PS: sorry I know this is a pain in the rump.

OVER

FOR SALE NOW! GARAGE SALE ITEMS..

There are some large items for the garage sale that exceed the amount of space available for storage. If you are interested in these items, they are still at our home, can be seen and picked up from there. You can make a donation to the wheelchair lift for them and everyone can get what they want without overburdening the need for storage. The items are:

refrigerator

sofa/sleeper

nearly new, excellent condition queen size mattress

washer

electric dryer

Call if interested, I'll answer questions or arrange for you to see the things. Jane 688-6607

WAL-MART CHARGED WITH SELLING NONORGANIC FOOD AS ORGANIC

Group Asks USDA to Fully Investigate Organic Product Misrepresentation

CORNUCOPIA, WI: The Cornucopia Institute, the nation's most aggressive organic farming watchdog, has filed a formal legal complaint with the USDA asking them to investigate allegations of illegal "organic" food distribution by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Cornucopia has documented cases of nonorganic food products being sold as organic in Wal-Mart's grocery departments.

"We first noticed that Wal-Mart was using in-store signage to misidentify conventional, nonorganic food as *organic* in their upscale-market test store in Plano, Texas," said Mark Kastel of The Cornucopia Institute. Subsequently, Cornucopia staff visited a number of other Wal-Mart stores in the Midwest and documented similar improprieties in both produce and dairy sections.

Cornucopia notified Wal-Mart's CEO Lee Scott in a letter on September 13, 2006 alerting the company to the problem and asking that it address and correct the situation on an immediate basis. But the same product misrepresentations were again observed weeks later, throughout October, at separate Wal-Mart stores in multiple states.

"This is disturbing and a serious problem," Kastel said. "Organic farmers adopt and follow a rigorous range of management practices, with audit trails, to ensure that the food they sell to processors and retailers is organic and produced in accordance with federal organic regulations. Consumers, who are paying premium prices in the marketplace for organic food, deserve to get what they are paying for."

Earlier this year, Wal-Mart announced a sweeping organic foods initiative and declared that they would greatly increase the number of organic offerings for sale in their stores—at dramatically lower prices than the competition. The move by the giant retailer has been under close scrutiny from members of the organic community

seeking to assess what impact Wal-Mart's decision will have on organic food and farming concerns.

A number of other organic food retailers throughout the country, including Whole Foods Markets and many of the nations member-owned grocery cooperatives, have gone to the effort to become certified organic in terms of the handling of their products and have invested heavily in staff training to help them understand organic food production and sale concerns.

"Our management and our employees know what organic means," said Lindy Bannister, General Manager at The Wedge Cooperative in Minneapolis, Minnesota. "If Wal-Mart intends to get into organics, they can't be allowed to misidentify 'natural' foods as organic to unsuspecting consumers." The Wedge, the largest single store member-owned food cooperative in the nation, was one of the first retailers to go through the USDA organic certification process.

"One can question whether Wal-Mart has the management and staff expertise necessary to fully understand organics and the marketing requirements essential to selling organic food," observed Kastel. "At this point, it seems they are attracted by the profits generated from the booming organic food sector but are not fully invested in organic integrity. Given their size, market power, and market clout, this is very troubling."

Cornucopia's complaint asks the USDA to fully investigate the allegations of organic food misrepresentation. The farm policy organization has indicated that they will share their evidence, including photographs and notes, with the agency's investigators. Fines of up to \$10,000 per violation for proven incidents of organic food misrepresentation are provided for in federal organic regulations.

This past September, The Cornucopia Institute also accused Wal-Mart of cheapening the value of the organic label by sourcing products from industrial-scale factory-farms and Third World countries, such as China.

The Institute released a white paper, [*Wal-Mart Rolls Out Organic Products—Market Expansion or Market Delusion?*](#), that made the argument that Wal-Mart is poised to drive down the price of organic food in the marketplace by inventing a "new" organic—food from corporate agribusiness, factory-farms, and cheap imports of questionable quality (available at www.cornucopia.org). – The Cornucopia Institute

Send submissions to garbanzo@lists.opn.org. You can also put articles in the garbanzo box at growers. Newsletter copy deadline is 5:00 pm Wednesday. Market hours are Tuesdays 5-7pm; Thursdays 2:30 to 7:30 pm and Fridays 3:00 to 6:30 pm. An orientation to Growers is held each Thursday at 1:30. The Growers email list includes an electronic banzo, events notices, and other misc. info. growers@lists.opn.org Growers Market: 687-1145.