

## **Currant Affairs**

**July 25, 2022 Edition**

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarducopeia (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) and the Alaska Food Policy Council

**\*\*Marks new and updated items in this issue**

## **WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, & SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Saturday & Wednesday Farmers Markets!**

**Most farmers markets are on Saturday** (Spenard, Muldoon, Midtown, Pena Park, South Anchorage, & Anchorage Farmers Market) **and Wednesday** (South Anchorage and APU Market), with a few exceptions (e.g. Grow North Farm farmstand is open Mon-Fri from 4-7 pm; Pena Park is open Sat-Sunday). Plan your weekly grocery shop on these days!

**July 28**

**Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center** Class on **Food Preservation: Making Jelly and More** (via Zoom). [More info on their website.](#)

**July 30**

**Alaska Botanical Garden** three-day course: Creating a Botanical Sketchbook - More information and registration on the [ABG website.](#)

**\*\*July 31**

**Anchorage Garden Club City Garden Tour** with a neat 'choose your own adventure' format – [More info here](#)

**'\*\*July 31**

**Yarducopia Garden Bike Tour** from 2-5 ish – Peddling Spenard, garden to garden. [More details on Yarducopia website.](#) RSVP with garden@akaction.org

**\*\*August 2**

**Urban Harvest: Drying Herb Harvests** offered by the Anchorage Museum. [Event info.](#)

**\*\*August 4**

**Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center** Class on **Food Preservation: Making Jelly and More** (via Zoom). [More info on their website.](#)

### **August 13**

**Anchorage VegFest** is back! A full day of presentations and discussion about plant-based diets, their benefits to health, and fun! Save the date and [check out their webpage](#).

### **\*\*August 20**

**Yarducopia Harvest Party** - A gathering to celebrate the ongoing harvest from all our gardens and the many concoctions made from what we've grown. We'll host it at either the Spenard Community Garden or Midtown Community Garden - [more details to come](#).

### **\*\*September 3**

**You Pick at Clark's Apple Orchard** across from Rabbit Creek Community Church. [More info](#).

### **\*\*September 10**

**Harvest Moon Festival** is the Kenai Peninsula's biggest farmers market and local food celebration of the year! In Soldotna, more info on their [event page](#).

## **PROGRAM and JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES**

**\*\*Grow Local, Give Local** a program of Catholic Social Services, uses donations to buy food directly from Fresh International Gardens and Grow North Farm to distribute through the St Frances Food Pantry – [More info here](#).

**\*\*Homer Grown gardening show** has a new episode on **Gardening in the Arctic**. You can listen to this and their other insightful programs at the [KBBi radio website](#)

**\*\*AG Matters** on Palmer's Big Cabbage Radio recent episode on **the Alaska Flour Company**. Check out this and past episodes here - <https://www.radiofreepalmer.org/category/ag-matters/>

**\*\*Share Waste** is [a handy website](#) for seeing where to drop off food waste to be used by neighbors in personal compost piles, fed to flocks, and used at community gardens. This isn't a 'new' website, but it might be new to you! In my experience, the more people using Share Waste (giving and receiving), the better it will work - <https://sharewaste.com/>

**\*\*Rebarchek Farm** is old news to many of you (it's a historical site after all), but for those unfamiliar, and for those interested in an update on new projects unfolding here, [Read on!](#)

**Food For Thought** food fridge in Mountain View is once again the topic on AK Public Media, this time as part of a full hour Talk of Alaska – Check the earlier piece and radio show [here](#) and [here](#). Amazing work Ziona and the FFT team!

**Midtown Garden Depot** has started accepting fresh 'green' waste to compost on select days and by special arrangement (e.g. pesticide-free grass, yard waste, and food scraps). Check with [garden@akaction.org](mailto:garden@akaction.org) for more info and to lend a hand & learn about small-scale composting.

**Anchor Gardens** is hosting a **Garden Questions Hotline** called Roots and Shoots every Tuesday starting at 7 pm. [Sign up for Anchor Gardens to learn more, get the link, etc.](#)

**Urban Harvest (a program of Anchorage Museum)** has posted their July/August lineup of classes – As always, great topics – [Check it out.](#)

**AK Food Policy Council** - We are working on a **statewide map of the state food system resources**. If you wish to add yourself or your organization to this map, please visit this page to read more about this important effort to provide an inclusive map of all our state food system resources. [Link to info.](#)

**Summer Garden Tours** have begun! Many of the organizations listed above and below host garden tours all summer long. I encourage you to join a garden club (or three!) and attend their tours. It can be a great way to be inspired, learn from others' experiences, and meet fellow enthusiasts and friends.

**Midtown Community Garden** – a new community garden at 2930 Cheechako Street has space and materials to construct more garden beds. Reach out to Yarduopia at [garden@akaction.org](mailto:garden@akaction.org) to sign up & get more info, or drop by during one of our gatherings (see above).

**Chanshtnu Community Garden** in Muldoon still has a few spaces available!

**Anchor Gardens'** I Street Garden Depot info - [anchorgardens.org/stockpiles](http://anchorgardens.org/stockpiles)

**Yarduopia** (a program of Alaska Community Action on Toxics) is accepting signups for gardeners looking for growing space, landowners offering space, and volunteers offering time to help make it all happen. Reach out to Yarduopia at [garden@akaction.org](mailto:garden@akaction.org) or [their website.](#)

**Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage** and the **Alaska School Garden Network** compile a list of public garden projects and volunteer opportunities – [you can view it here.](#)

## **FINDING FOOD: FARMERS MARKETS, FOOD PANTRIES, & FOOD HUBS**

**The Alaska Farmers Market Association** launched a [New Farmers Market Toolkit](#) for starting, enhancing, and supporting a farmers' market in your community. Well done AFMA!

**The Alaska Farmers Market Association's** [Market Directory](#) helps you easily find farmers markets you live near, the address, hours, etc.

**A List of Anchorage Food Pantries** can be found at [AnchorageFood.org](https://AnchorageFood.org) (Address, hours, etc.)

**Locally Grown Resource Guide** made by the Mat-Su Cooperative Extension – [Link to PDF](#).

**Local Food Pickups in Anchorage and Valley** - goat milk, duck/chicken eggs, and chicken, turkey, goat, and rabbit meat. Call or text (907)-885-7732 Or (907)-312-6779

**LunaChick Farm** sells sustainably raised animals, eggs, etc with drop-offs on the Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage, and Valley. Learn more about the operation [here](#) or [here](#) or this [entertaining radio interview from 2020](#).

**Whispering Bay Ranch** has **local eggs for sale** in Anchorage on Thursdays, Mat-Su on Mondays. Chicken and Duck. (907) 885-7732

**APU Farmstand** this Wednesday from 3:00-6:30 with kale, bok Choi, salad greens, sorrel, and more! Come get your early summer fix of fresh greens!

**Grow North Farm Farmstand** open 4-7 pm Mon-Friday. Thursdays feature global cuisine to-go from a rotating Grow North Farm farmer! SNAP and WIC welcome.

**Arctic Harvest Deliveries** – produce share sold out, [meat and seafood shares still available](#)

**Alaska Food Hub** opened for its 7th season, with pick-ups in Homer, Soldotna, Ninilchik, and Seldovia, with more locations in the works.

**Support Alaska's American Indian Producers** - <https://www.indianagfoods.org/alaska-1> & check out Ag Alaska's list of AK farms - <https://agalaska.org/alaska-farms/>

**Blue Market** carries lots of locally grown and fermented foods throughout the winter. You can find **Happy Mushrooms**, **Common Root** kimchi and curtido, greens from **Seeds of Change** & much more.

**City Farms** is an indoor hydroponics farm in Anchorage. Their veggies can be found at New Sagaya, Natural Pantry, Fred Meyer, and Walmart. <https://www.cityfarmsalaska.com/>

**Local Greens** sell hydroponically grown veggies year-round in Anchorage. [Get a weekly or every-other-week subscription](#), and pickup at Double Shovel Cidery at your convenience

**Far North Fungi** grows and sells fresh and dried mushrooms in Anchorage & teaches fungi cultivation.

**Anchorage Greens** sells direct to consumers through a weekly Green Bag subscription as well as folks who stop by for on-site ala carte purchases. <https://www.anchoragegreens.com/>

**Alaska Sprouts** sells sprouts and microgreens online for pickup in Anchorage - <https://www.alaskasprouts.com/> . Read more about their story in a [2017 issue of Edible Alaska](#)

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at [riordannk@gmail.com](mailto:riordannk@gmail.com).