

Currant Affairs

July 9, 2021 Edition

Compiled regularly by Nick Riordan on behalf of Yarducopia, Alaska Community Action on Toxics and the Alaska Food Policy Council

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

WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, & SPECIAL EVENTS

July 10

Chanshtnu Muldoon Community Food Forest Workparty this Saturday from 10 AM – 2 PM. Please bring your own shovels and wood chip rakes if you have them. Please email / phone / text Krsiti Wood with any questions. Bikemoredriveless@hotmail.com 907-278-2453. [Map](#)

July 11

Anchor Gardens Gleaning Group Discussion and Work Exchange from 11 am -1 pm – [More info on their website.](#)

July 15

Food Preservation Basics will be the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

July 15

Compost pile workshop in Midtown hosted by Yarducopia from 12-3 pm at 2930 Cheechako Street. We built the pile in our first workshop, and now its time to turn them and evaluate how they're doing. Check out [the event page for more info](#) or reach out to garden@akaction.org.

July 22

Jellies, Jams, Preserves, Marmalades, and Conserves will be the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

July 24

Yarducopia is hosting a **Garden Bike Tour** through Mountain View from 12-2 pm. We'll be biking between some of the amazing gardens, urban agriculture, and other projects, meeting and learning from the individuals and organizations that make it happen. [Check out the event page](#) for more details.

July 27

Attend **Chicken University** with the staff of the Cooperative Ext. And Matanuska Experimental Farm for one hour on Tuesday. [Read more and register for the Zoom class here.](#) And as always, you can check out the [full list of this amazing organizations events here.](#)

July 29

Canning Fish in Jars and Smoking Fish will be the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

August 5

Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables (including Herbs) is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

August 10

The Anchorage Museum's **Urban Harvest: Creative Uses for an Abundance of Kale** from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. [Read more about the event and sign up here.](#)

August 12

Canning Fruits will be the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

****August 14**

Yarducopia is hosting a **Harvest Party Potluck** at Lyons Park in Mountain View from 2-5 pm to celebrate the growing season, fresh fruit and veg, and the supportive gardening community of Anchorage. Come join, bring something to share, & looking forward to catching up. [More info.](#)

August 19

Canning Tomatoes is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

August 26

Pickles and Sauerkraut is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

September 2

Canning Vegetables and Legumes is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

****September 2**

Making Sauerkraut workshop with the Anchorage Garden Club - [More info on their website.](#)

September 9

Canning Meat and Poultry in Jars is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

September 16

Making Jerky is the next installment from the Cooperative Extension & Experimental Farm's Food Preservation Series starting at 12 pm - [list of events](#) and their details

**September 20

Urban Gardening in Anchorage with Yarducopia and Grow North Farm presented by Nick Bachman, Keenan Plate, & Nick Riordan at the monthly AMG meeting at 7 pm. [More info.](#)

**September 29

Seeds and Soil Farm offers **Harvest to Home: Food Storage and Preservation** from 6:30-8:30 pm. [See their website for registration.](#)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Grow North Farmstand** along Mountain View Drive is open 4:00-7:00 PM Mondays to Fridays selling fresh produce picked on-site that day! It doesn't get much fresher. Also, weekly produce boxes will be beginning soon. Contact Nick Bachman for more info at 865-5213 or nbachman@anchorageandtrust.org.

WIC Benefits Increasing (June-September) -Alaska families enrolled in WIC can eat more fruits and vegetables thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act, also called the federal COVID-19 stimulus package. Benefits will be increasing for each mother and child enrolled in WIC between June through September to buy fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables at over 160 participating stores across the state. [WIC prescreening tool](#) & [Sign up](#).

The Alaska Farmers Market Association's [Market Directory](#) is a simple and easy way to see what farmers markets you live by, where they are, hours, and their acceptable forms of payment. Check this site out!

[AnchorageFood.org](#) provides a list of **Food Pantries** in Anchorage, their hours, addresses, etc

The Spenard Community Garden hosts weekly garden gatherings on Wednesdays from 4-7. Live in the neighborhood? Pop on by. [You can learn more about the garden here.](#)

The Cooperative Extension Service's Heidi Rader will be teaching the next **Online Master Gardener Class** from August 23 to December 3. Registration is open. [More details here.](#)

Plant Sales – Many nurseries offer discounts after the solstice. Call to check. Buy a bargain perennial and plant in the fall.

The **Alaska Master Gardeners** will be offering another **Advanced Master Gardeners course** taught by Brenda Adams this fall. Details TBA. [Sign up here for more information.](#)

Looking for a place to grow your own food? To learn how to garden? Or support with a gardening project in Anchorage? Yarducopia might be able to help. [You can read more and sign up on our website.](#) Or reach out to garden@akaction.org

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Closing soon! - USDA community compost and food waste reduction projects. You can find the solicitation at <https://www.grants.gov> by searching for notices posted by the Department of Agriculture or for [Funding Opportunity Number USDA-NRCS-NHQ-CCFWR-21-NOFO0001112.](#)

Alaska Village Initiatives' agAlaska program has a [variety of funding opportunities](#) to support agriculture across the state supporting beginning farmers, conservation efforts, and high tunnels.

OPEN POSITIONS & INTERNSHIPS

Landscaping and Gardening Jobs – Anecdotally, I've been hearing experienced gardeners-for-hire are in demand in and around Anchorage. Reach out if you'd like to learn more about these opportunities (907)-717-4392

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

****The AK School Garden Network** is planning to re-start meetings before the next school year begins in August. [Their Facebook Page](#) continues to be a good point of contact, and they released the [results of their last survey of ASD School Gardens as a pdf.](#)

Boyers Orchard in Anchorage is requesting donations to help cover utilities costs while the Anchorage Municipality searches for funding opportunities to purchase the property. [You can donate here.](#)

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.](#)

Anchor Gardens is recruiting **neighborhood garden coaches**. Coaches serve as community mentors for those interested in learning about growing food in their own neighborhoods and assist in linking people to resources. Reach out to anchorgardensanc@gmail.com.

To **RECEIVE** Currant Affairs, suggest items to **ADD, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS** or **UNSUBSCRIBE**, contact Nick Riordan at riordank@gmail.com.