

## Springfield Co-op brings local vendors together

story and photos by  
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The Message for the Week

The Springfield Co-Op has been a fixture in the area since it was started in 1992. The Co-Op moved to its new, bright and modern location at 335 River Street, Route 106, in North Springfield three years ago, and is enjoying the additional room the new space provides.

"We bring a lot of local vendors together," said Cindy Phillips, the general manager. "We're expecting a truckload of produce from Deep Meadow Farm in Westminster today. With organic fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices and meats bought from local farmers, there is definitely a green aspect to our business."

With 800 members, and many others that shop there on a regular basis, the Co-Op is a busy place.

"People are becoming a lot more aware of buying good, locally raised food," said Phillips. "Organic and local is a sustainable agriculture. We're open seven days a week, and we're open to the public, so you don't have to be a member. Also, people should know that our sales flyer deals are open to everybody as well."

The Co-Op has expanded its hours and is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. They have coffee for commuters, and you can also pick up a lunch to go from the cooler, which features fresh sushi, excellent, nutritious salads and sandwiches and wraps.

Another green aspect of the Co-Op is the offering of a very wide variety of bulk foods. Bring your own container and enjoy the considerable cost savings for buying in bulk.

They have a good selection of green, mostly vegetable-based cleaning products, which can also be purchased in bulk.

The Co-Op can be reached at 885-3363.



At right, some of the green cleaning products at Springfield Co-Op; Above, the aisle of bulk bins at the Springfield Co-Op.

