



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2012 County Commissioner Candidates to Appear at EAT LOCAL!

Week Brown Bag Lunch Panel

Citizens Will Have Opportunity to Query Candidates on Controversial Issues

In the midst of controversy over GMO on publicly-owned Open Space land and agricultural land use issues, seven candidates for the seats of term-limited County Commissioners Will Toor and Ben Pearlman will meet with citizens during Transition Colorado's EAT LOCAL! Week Brown Bag Lunch Panel Series, on Wed., Aug. 31, noon - 1:30 p.m., at the Millennium Harvest House Ballroom, 1345 28th St., Boulder. Candidates who have committed to participating in this panel include Kai Abelkis, Bill Van Dusen, Leslie Irwin, Peggy Jackson, Elise Jones, Rich Lopez and Garry Sanfocon.

The panel, "Spotlight on County Commissioner Candidates," is part of a series of panel discussions that will be held each weekday during EAT LOCAL! Week (topics, panelists and locations detailed below), to provide opportunities for Boulder County citizens to hear from and interact with some of the people who are at the front lines of revitalizing local food and agriculture. These "local heroes" will share their views, answer questions, and engage in lively discussion of some of the key issues and challenges. All panels are free.

Brown Bag Lunch Panel Series Schedule

"Local Food for Local Health," Mon, Aug. 29, REI Store, 1789 28th St., Boulder. One of the important reasons for food localization is the broad range of health benefits available from a diet of local and organic food. Panelists for this session include Robyn O'Brien, author of *The Unhealthy Truth*; Melissa Houghton, Livewell Longmont; Tyler Norris, Creating Healthier Communities; Charlie Cropley, The Yoga of Eating.

"So You Want to Be a Farmer? Agriculture-Supported Community in Boulder County," Tues., Aug. 30, Alfalfa's Market Community Room, 1651 Broadway, Boulder. These days we hear about many people considering getting into farming as a viable career choice. This panel turns the tables and explores a little-discussed role for local agriculture: nurturing community. Get the low-down from Rich Pecoraro, Abbondanza Organic Seeds & Produce; Mark Guttridge, Ollin Farms; Kayann Short, Stonebridge Farm; and Lauren Culbertson, Pachamama Organic Farm.

(MORE)

"Spotlight on County Commissioner Candidates," Wed., Aug. 31, Millennium Harvest House, 1345 28th St., Boulder. This is an opportunity to ask all the hard questions of the candidates for two county commissioner posts (Will Toor and Ben Pearlman are term-limited), an exciting exercise in local democracy! One of the hottest and most contentious issues will be GMOs and cropland policy. Candidates who have committed to participating in this panel include Kai Abelkis, Bill Van Dusen, Leslie Irwin, Peggy Jackson, Elise Jones, Rich Lopez and Garry Sanfocon.

"The Farm-to-School Challenge," Thurs., Sept. 1, Alfalfa's Market Community Room, 1651 Broadway, Boulder. Getting fresh, healthy local food into our schools turns out to be a daunting challenge that will require a concerted community effort. Panelists for this lively session include Julia Erlbaum, RealFood Colorado; Bryce Brown, Growe Foundation; Travis Robinson, The Kitchen Community; Shelly Allen, St. Vrain Valley School District; Andy Nowack, Slow Food Denver.

"Building the Boulder County Local Food Brand," Fri., Sept. 2, REI Store, 1789 28th St., Boulder. If food localization can boost the local economy, then it seems necessary to build a local food brand along the way. How can this be done? Panelists include Hugo Matheson, The Kitchen; Erik Skokan, Black Cat Farm Table Bistro; Arron Mansika, Naturally Boulder; Seley DeYarus; Best Organics.

Full details about all EAT LOCAL! Week events are available at www.TransitionColorado.org.

Major sponsors of EAT LOCAL! Week include Localization Partners LLC, AM760, Chipotle, Slow Money, Chautauqua, Madhava, Lyons Farmette, Boulder Weekly, and the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Fair.

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Boulder-based Transition Colorado is a leader in the international movement to build community resilience and self-reliance in response to converging global crises—fossil fuel depletion, climate change, and economic instability. Through its EAT LOCAL! Campaign the organization is focused on catalyzing localization of food systems in the Colorado Front Range and beyond.

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