

Susan Benz

2023 Annual Election Candidate

1. What role do you think the EACM will play in East Aurora's future?

I think the EACM will increasingly reach more customers, serve as an educator in the areas of healthy eating and food as medicine, and continue as an intentional gathering place for customers seeking in person connection with others in the community.

2. In what ways are you working to contribute to and improve the East Aurora community?

I am a big cheerleader for East Aurora and have been for the 33 years I have lived here. I regularly participate in community events, and now that I am semi-retired from a busy law practice, I am looking forward to "giving back" to the community in a more focused way through volunteer efforts.

3. If you can find healthy, organic food at another grocery store, why choose East Aurora Co-op Market?

I believe it is important to support a community-owned grocery store where we, as owners, can have a voice in the store's operations. Further, the store's revenues are reinvested in an asset that benefits the community rather than an out-of-town corporation. Lastly, the EACM provides jobs to individuals who reside in our community and a location for local farmers to sell their crops.

4. Which of the 10 cooperative values resonates with you most and why?

Concern for the Community. I think the EACM has a unique opportunity to educate the community about where their food comes from, the benefits of eating healthy, organic food, how to prepare healthy food and how food can be used as medicine to improve their quality of life.