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Fox Trot, Dom's Announce Merger

Chicago-based food retailers, Fox Trot Market and Dom's Kitchen & Market (Dom's), announce an agreement in principle to merge their two companies. With a shared vision to redefine food shopping and dining experiences for the local communities they serve, this merger is just the beginning of a prosperous partnership that will bring thoughtfully curated products and experiences to consumers.

Upon closing, the merger of Fox Trot Market and Dom's Kitchen & Market will fall under a new entity, Outfox Hospitality. Liz Williams will become the CEO, leading all day-to-day operations for the company, with Don Fitzgerald serving as Dom's Kitchen & Market President & COO through a transition period. Mike LaVitola, Co-Founder of Fox Trot, Jay Owen, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of Dom's, and Bob Mariano, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of Dom's, will continue to hold advisor and board roles within the organization.

Navigating the Global Olive Oil Shortage

By Rick Cummisford, Director of Quality, Columbus Vegetable Oils

You may have noticed a slightly higher price when purchasing olive oil. It started last spring with Europe clocking its hottest summer on record. Spain, one of the largest suppliers of olive oil, reported a 48% loss in olive oil production due to extreme heat, ongoing wildfires and a long-running drought. Italy faced crop damage from severe storms, and Turkey suspended exports, creating a surge in demand and a 130% spike in price. The long-term impact on future olive oil crops is unknown. Farmers are already warning this year's harvest may be down as much as 40%.

As a fourth generation, woman-owned company, Columbus Vegetable Oils is aware of the pressures involved in managing a business. A slight decrease in product availability or increase in price can have a dramatic impact on a restaurant, bakery or small business owner.

With nearly 90 years as an oil supplier, Columbus Vegetable Oils has explored and tested a variety of olive oil alternatives. Canola, corn, vegetable oil and sunflower oil work as a one-to-one substitute. They all have a neutral flavor and can be used from frying to salad dressings. Avocado, peanut and rice bran oils all have high smoke point, and can be an ideal substitute for frying, roasting, grilling and sautéing. Coconut Oil is a solid at room temperature and has a very light mouthfeel, making it excellent for use in some baked goods. Another option is custom blends. Columbus Vegetable Oils works with its customers to understand their challenges and develop a custom blend that fits their needs.

According to global analysts, we will be feeling the effects of the olive oil shortage throughout 2024. Take the time now to experiment with alternative oils to perfect your new recipes.

— See the Columbus Vegetable Oils ad on page 7.



Green City Market Opens in Avondale

Green City Market (GCM), the nonprofit organization behind Chicago's flagship sustainable farmers' markets in Lincoln Park and the West Loop, will continue operating their indoor market location in Avondale located at 3031 N. Rockwell St, this winter. Additionally, Green City Market will expand from bi-weekly operations to a weekly marketplace for 25-plus local, sustainable farmers and food vendors throughout the winter season.

"Folks urged us to hold the market every week after a successful season last winter and we're thrilled to make it happen!" shares Mandy Moody, executive director of Green City Market.