

Market Talk

St. Clair Farmers' Market
St. Clair Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 121, St. Clair, MI 48079
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St. Clair Farmers Market Michigan Grown Produce



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS

St. Clair Farmers' Market Takes on New Look



St. Clair Farmers' Market, located at the corner of North Riverside Avenue (M-29) and Vine Street across from the historic St. Clair Inn, is expanding and taking on a new look as a result of extensive planning. It will now become a part of a community-wide program to bring a greater number of people to the City of St. Clair.

The St. Clair Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the St. Clair Downtown Development Authority has developed a theme program to promote Thursdays in St. Clair. The *Market* will become an anchor project of this larger effort that will include local businesses that are

opened until 8:00 p.m., weekly classic automobile shows; open air cooking demonstrations; unique menu items at area restaurants and other specialty dining places; special sales and discounts; plus scheduled events, concerts and shows. The Chamber will coordinate the farmers' market aspect of the project.

Present plans call for the *St. Clair Farmers' Market* to begin on May 21 for those farmers and vendors who want to participate that early. It will continue until October 29, again for those farmers and vendors desiring to do so.

A Chamber-conducted survey in 2008 provided evidence that different hours would be more convenient for farmers, vendors and customers alike. As a result, the *Market* will open each Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and continue until 8:00 p.m.

A primary objective of the *Market* is to offer Michigan-grown produce (local farmers are given preference); nursery items; dried and cut flowers, dairy and eggs, jams, jellies, honey and condiments;

bakery goods and confections, and other related products.

The *Market's* focus is on providing all qualified local farmers and vendors an opportunity to sell their produce and goods in addition to giving local citizens and visitors the opportunity to purchase them. The newly developed schedule is designed to accomplish that.

The mission of the *Market* is to promote healthy, locally produced food and goods thereby supporting local sustainable agriculture. The *Market*, too, is part of a greater effort that encourages the long-term growth and success of a community market place. The primary goal is to preserve the *St. Clair Farmers' Market* as a creative environment and vibrant community gathering place.

Farmers and vendors interested in detailed information regarding the *Market* or to obtain an application to participate should contact David Gillis, Market Master at 810.329.2962. E-mail messages should be sent to info@stclairchamber.com.

Project FRESH Program to Continue

The *St. Clair Farmers' Market* is committed to the Project FRESH and Senior Project FRESH programs co-sponsored by the St. Clair County MSU Extension Service and the Michigan Department of Community Health. Accordingly, participating farmers and vendors are encouraged to use the program for qualified customers.

The Project FRESH programs make

fresh produce available to low-income, nutritionally-at-risk consumers, by using Michigan farmers' markets.

Project FRESH clients receive a \$20 booklet of ten \$2 coupons to be used between June 1 and October 31 in the year the booklet is issued. Coupons can only be used by buy Michigan-grown fresh fruits and vegetables at Michigan farmers' markets that accept the coupons.



Pictured above are Brian and Barb Cwik of Cwik Garden Center & Greenhouse in Kimball Township. The Cwik's were the first farmers to sign on for the 2009 season of the St. Clair Farmers' Market.

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For Prospective Market Farmers and Vendors

The *St. Clair Farmers' Market* encourages you to explore the opportunities available at the market place.

To qualify you must be aware of state licensing food safety labeling laws as they pertain to your products being sold at the market. Each farmer/vendor must comply with all applicable laws and should consult state authorities to determine whether they are required to obtain specific licenses to sell at the market.

The Market Master reserves the right to request a copy of any license. Each farmer/vendor is responsible for his/her set-up and break-down of tents and/or tables. It is not the responsibility of the Market sponsors to provide tents, tables or chairs. The market also requests that a special effort be put forth to maintain a clean area at the end of each market day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

810.329.2962

