

Port farmers market opens this Saturday

Written by KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM
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Requests from vendors, customers prompt organizers to start event a month earlier

Port Washington's farmers market will begin Saturday — a month earlier than in previous years.

The earlier start was sought by both vendors and customers, said Sara Grover, executive director of Port Washington Main Street, which sponsors the market.

"For several years, we've been asked by many people to do it," she said. "With the winter and spring (indoor) market this year, it seemed like a good time to do it."

The 31st annual farmers market will again be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays in the 100 block of East Main Street. Live music will be played every three weeks or so, Grover said, and organizers are looking into the idea of offering cooking demonstrations occasionally.

"If we can work that into the schedule, we'll do it," she said.

The earlier market will feature such diverse offerings as plants, vegetables, meats, cheeses and other products.

There won't be as many vendors at the market initially as there are in summer, Grover said.

"It won't be full right off the bat, but there will be a good showing," she said.

Almost all the vendor spaces for the summertime market have already been spoken for, she added.

The earlier start will give the Port event a better presence in the area and feed off the city's winter and spring indoor farmers markets, attracting the many people who have become accustomed to buying their produce and other items at the markets, Grover said.

It will also allow Port's market to better compete with other markets in the area that start earlier in the season, she said.

"I think it'll be good for the businesses in town, too," Grover said, noting many of the people who visit the market also stop at downtown shops.

"To have these few extra weeks for the businesses, especially the new businesses that are starting up, is a good thing."

The Main Street Program is continuing to look for volunteer organizations, such as civic groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops and sports teams, to run the information tent during the season, Grover said.

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Groups that run the tent are able to use the booth for their own fundraising while there, she noted.

For more information on the market or to obtain information about the running the information booth, call the Main Street office at 268-1132.