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Managers Needed for Farmers' Market

If fruits and veggies are two of your favorite things, then one of two job openings with the Village may be right for you. Two dedicated produce-lovers are being sought to manage the Oak Park Farmers' Market, held from June through October every year. The roles are that of manager and assistant manager.

The Farmers' Market Manager is responsible for overall operations and overseeing the vendors. This manager must build a good working relationship with the citizen volunteers on the Farmers' Market Commission, the staff of Pilgrim Church where the market is held, as well as the farmers. The assistant manager needs the skills to provide administrative support and serve as acting manager as needed.

Traveling to the farmers' fields to check out their operations and ensure they are actually producing the fresh goods they bring to sell in Oak Park also are among the duties of the market manager and assistant. Growers are from Illinois, Wisconsin and western Michigan.

Oak Parkers are welcome to apply and encouraged to spread the word. The previous market manager was a teacher, which allowed her to devote a lot of time during the summer months planning and running market events, although support is required throughout the year. Being a morning person is a desirable qualification, too, officials say, since the managers have to be on-site long before the market opens to the day's customers.

The Farmers' Market, open during the season from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday in the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake Street, is more than just an open air market. It's an Oak Park tradition dating back 30 years. Growers offer a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses. Frozen meats were added to the Market for the first time last season.

The application deadline is Feb. 17 and complete job descriptions can be found at www.oak-park.us/jobs. For more information on the Farmers' Market, contact the Village Manager's Office at 358.5770 or email village@oak-park.us.

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