



**For Immediate Release:** 04.28.06

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### **New Farmers' Market Manager Named**

A new manager will be at the helm when the venerable Oak Park Farmers' Market opens for its 31st season on Sat., June 3.

Meredith Conn, a licensed dietician and exercise physiologist who has lived in the Village for 15 years, has been chosen to oversee the day-to-day operations of the market.

"Meredith's strong background in nutrition and volunteer organizations made her a natural choice for market manager," said Rick Whitehead, chair of the Oak Park Farmers' Market Commission, a group of 11-citizen volunteers appointed by the Village Board oversee the market. "My fellow commissioners and I are pleased someone with her background and longtime residency will be assuming this important role."

As manager, Conn will oversee all aspects of market operations, including making sure vendors are in compliance with rules that require farmers to sell only products they grow and produce. She also will coordinate special market events, working with the commissioners and other volunteers who are involved hands-on in the Saturday morning activities.

"As a nutrition professional, I am well versed in the safe and proper handling of food products and I place a premium on the huge health value of consuming produce in the daily diet," Conn said. "But this position is about more than food and nutrition. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is a gathering place where community spirit is fostered. At the same time, it offers an opportunity to help family farms preserve a way of life that deserves our support."

Ms. Conn is not new to community involvement. She was a volunteer advisor to the Oak Park Health Department for five years, and served two years as co-chair of the Board of Health.

Meanwhile, a volunteer recruitment reception is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m., Mon., May 15 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Volunteers are being recruited to serve as commissioners and as *Friends of the Market*. Anyone interested in becoming a commissioner or volunteer should attend the reception or call 358.5780.

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**New Farmers' Market Manager  
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The Farmers' Market is a Saturday morning fixture at the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake St. The market is open every Saturday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., June through October, rain or shine. In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, the market also offers flowers, plants, honey and homemade cheeses. Prepackaged frozen meat, poultry and fish are available as well.

The Oak Park Farmers' Market also features unique items for sale to help support market administration, including T-shirts, tank tops and shopping bags.

For more information on the market visit [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket), email [farmersmarket@oak-park.us](mailto:farmersmarket@oak-park.us) or call 358.5780.

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