Oak Park

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Farmers' Market to donate leftover produce to local organizations

The Oak Park Farmers' Market will be participating in a new Saturday activity beginning June 23 – giving. After the market closes, vendors will be able to donate leftover goods and produce to one of five local area assistance organizations.

This season's recipients will be Hephzibah Children's Association, a day care program and group home; West Suburban P.A.D.S., a housing program for local homeless; Sarah's Inn, an Oak Park shelter for abused women; the Oak Park/River Forest Community of Congregations food pantry; and Fraternite Notre Dame soup kitchen, located on the west side of Chicago.

Each group will be given an assigned Saturday to pick up the produce market vendors contribute. The new program, conceived last year by the volunteers of The Farmers' Market Commission, is the proverbial win-win for both growers and the recipients, according to Market Commissioner Ann Bill.

Market vendors don't have to pack up the perfectly good produce and take it home, knowing full well it won't stay fresh enough for the next market. And recipients will receive farm-fresh produce at no cost, she said.

For more information on the program or the Oak Park Farmers' Market, call 358.5780 or e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us. Market information also is available at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

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