



For Immediate Release: 05.11.09

From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Meredith Conn
Market Manager
708.358.5780

Volunteers needed

Oak Park Farmers' Market to begin 34th season on May 23

The Oak Park Farmers' Market will open for its 34th season on Sat., May 23. This is the second year the market will open in May rather than June, timing intended to give patrons an opportunity to buy plants for their gardens.

During the first two early markets in May, hours will be 8 a.m. – noon. With the first full market on Sat., June 6, regular hours of 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. will go into effect until the final market on the last Saturday in October.

The Oak Park Farmers' Market is held in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot at 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses from Illinois and neighboring states, the market also offers warm donuts made on-site, juice and coffee, and live bluegrass music. Prepackaged frozen meat, poultry and fish are available as well.

The two organic growers added last year are expected to offer their goods again this season, including several heirloom products. Also expected to return this season is one vendor who specializes in mushrooms and another offering artisanal soap. Red Hen Bread also will return to the market this season.

In addition, unique items will be on sale at the welcome tent to help support the Farmers' Market administration. These include long- and short-sleeved shirts, hooded sweatshirts and reusable bags.

This season's special events will include an environmental-focused *Go Green Day* on May 30 as well as cooking demonstrations most Saturdays featuring chefs from local restaurants. The traditional corn roast will be held on August 15 and *Stone Soup* is scheduled for the market's final day on Oct. 31.

Volunteers are needed to work two-hour shifts on Saturdays when the market opens. For more information on the market or volunteering, call 708.358.5780 or e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

###