Clemson Farmers Market kicks off 2nd season today at new location

BY GREG OLIVER
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CLEMSON — The city of Clemson Farmers Market will begin its second season today, but it is in a new location and will extend later in the year.

City Planner Arzu Yilmaz said Patrick Square, on the corner of Issaqueena Trail and Chapman Hill Road, is the permanent home for the market that will be held from 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. every Friday, rain or shine, through Nov. 18.

The market, which continues to promote locally grown food and handmade arts and crafts, will showcase goods from over 20 vendors while promoting local, sustainable agriculture. Focusing on the importance of "living local" combined with the support of local farmers and artists, the city worked with Patrick Square to create a venue that celebrates and promotes fresh shopping alternatives.

"There will be items ranging from meat, eggs, fruits, vegetables to cut flowers, plants, hanging baskets and handcrafted garden accessories," Yilmaz said.

Last year's market, which was held in the Lakeview Shopping Center, ran from the middle of May through the end of August. But Yilmaz said growers requested operations be extended.

"We should have a second round of winter greens and other vegetables by then," she said. "So, we decided to extend it through the week before Thanksgiving this year."

All vendors participating in the 2011 farmers market went through an application and selection process to ensure produce, prepared foods and crafted goods sold are locally produced and handmade.

Ross Hanahan, development manager at Patrick Square, said he is excited the city selected the development as the new location for the farmers market.

"The square was designed to host community events and serve as a gathering spot and this is a perfect activity to take place there," Hanahan said.

Availability and offerings are expected to change weekly until the farmers market closes its season.

Current selections will be available on Facebook at http://facebook.com/clemsonfarmersmarket and Twitter @ClemsonMarket.

For more information about the Clemson Farmers Market, go to http://www.clemsonfarmersmarket.org/ or email clemsonfarmersmarket@cityofclemson.org.

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