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Clemson market nears fruition

Farmers market set to start first Friday in May on U.S. 123

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CLEMSON — The city is on track to open its first farmers market next month on U.S. 123.

City planner Arzu Yilmaz said around 30 farmers and home vegetable gardeners responded favorably to a questionnaire mailed to more than 150 growers within a 60-mile radius of Clemson.

Yilmaz said the market would open the first Friday in May and remain open every first Friday through September. It would operate from the parking lot of Crossroads Church on U.S. 123, formerly Gold's Gym.

Hours for the city market have been tentatively set for 4 p.m. until sellout, she said.

City officials chose a Friday market to avoid competing with existing local markets on other days of the week. Farmers markets are currently held in neighboring Pendleton and Seneca, as well as Easley, Anderson and Greenville.

"The competition for a Saturday market is very high," Yilmaz said, and in Clemson's case, holding a market in the fall on that day would run into problems during Clemson football home games.

In February, Yilmaz suggested that the city-sanctioned market could be combined with an existing produce market that opened last season on the Clemson University campus.

However, subsequent discussions with that student-led market have resulted in a plan to keep the student enterprise at its campus location and open

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