

## LOCAL NEWS

# Easley considers

By Julie Howle

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Downtown Easley could be a hot spot for buying locally grown produce if plans for a farmers market come to fruition.

"I think people would really like it," said Easley City Councilwoman Kim Valentin, who is chairing a committee to look at the idea.

"There are a lot of people I know who go from Easley to Greenville to the farmers markets ... Anderson has a farmers market."

Mayor Larry Bagwell appointed Valentin and councilmen Dave Watson and Chris Mann to the committee that will study the issue.

Valentin said that if the city decides to start a farmers market the event could

possibly be on Saturday mornings within a particular season and could boast local, organic food and other homemade items like jellies and cakes.

"It would probably be during the summer months, possibly spring and fall as well," she said. "We haven't really decided."

Valentin said one possible location that has been

## farmers market

discussed is in front of city hall.

City council members talked about the idea of starting a farmers market at their recent goal-setting retreat, she said, and Valentin said several people have expressed interest in the idea for Easley.

She said she would like to see the city work with DunBurks Premier Events, which manages the city's

events, on the possible farmers market.

Scott Buckhiester, vice president of operations for DunBurks, said DunBurks' initial thought was for the market to have only locally grown produce on Saturday mornings for two to three hours.

He said the farmers market gives local farmers an outlet to sell what they have and gives people an

entertaining event.

"I think it's as much a social event as it is being able to buy local produce," Buckhiester said. "We are always looking for ways to bring people to the city of Easley, to keep the residents of Easley from having to drive to adjacent cities for whatever it is they like to do."