Easley farmers market to start in May

City extends special invitation to strawberry growers, home gardeners

By Julie Howle
STAFF WRITER
jhowle@greenvillenews.com

A farmers market planned to open in downtown Easley in May is expected to feature everything from fresh produce to homemade crafts.

"It seems to go really well in Greenville and Anderson," Easley City Councilwoman Kim Valentin said. "I really think we should try it, see how it goes and make it so that people don't have to travel to other counties to go to a farmers market."

City Administrator Fox Simons said the farmers market is set to start May 16 and will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot in front of City Hall.

He said City Council is expected to vote on a resolution in support of a farmers market at the council meeting April 13.

Valentin said vendors will be charged $5 for a parking lot spot. She said they must provide their own tables and tents.

"We're looking for anybody to sell fruit, vegetables," she said. "If you have a backyard garden, we're looking for you to come and rent a booth and sell your garden items."

Other items residents could see at the market include plants, flowers, crafts and baked goods, provided they come from a certified, DHEC-approved kitchen.

"We're not putting a limit on where the produce is coming from," Valentin said. "Some farmers markets just do local ... We talked about a 100-mile radius, but we're not going to do that."

But she said people selling items at the market have to sign a statement saying they grow their own food and said reselling food won't be allowed.

Valentin said the city would like to have people who grow strawberries participate and said that is one of the main reasons for the market's start in May.

"We want it to be a huge turnout," she said. "We want it to be that people from Pickens County come to our farmers market every Saturday morning."

INTERESTED?

- Farmers and others interested in selling their items at the market can call City Hall at 855-7900.