Farmers Market coming to Six Mile

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BY GREG OLIVER
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SIX MILE — Six Mile will soon join several neighboring municipalities in holding a weekly farmers market, using the former fire station adjacent to town hall, starting in the spring.

"We feel we could hold the market rain or shine because of the big bays we have," said Mayor Roy Stoddard. "It would be a way to attract people into Six Mile and give local farmers a chance to sell their produce."

Although details have yet to be finalized, Stoddard said he anticipates startup no later than the first of May and continuing through September. The mayor envisions the weekly market being held for a three-hour period each Thursday.

"This is a new process, so we'll see what happens," he said.

The idea for the Six Mile Farmers Market came from Town Council member James Atkinson, who said he has observed the success farmers markets have enjoyed in Clemson, Pendleton, Liberty and Easley and feels his town could also benefit.

"Our hope is that indeed it will be something that not only will bring merchants, but also people into our area," Atkinson said. "When you have a town of 675 folks and 350 houses, our hope is to bring someone in.



Atkinson

"What we're hoping is that folks traveling around to the various farmers markets will also make Six Mile one of their regular stops. We would like to see merchants and people from the outside coming in and that, ultimately, it would lead to people wanting to start some type of small business here."

Atkinson said Six Mile has much to offer vendors in addition to an indoor facility.

"We have greenspace a lot of other towns wish they had, as well as a number of growers since we have one of the largest producers of berries in the Six Mile area," he said.

While Six Mile is the latest of a number of area farmers markets, Atkinson doesn't view the town's entry as competition. Kathi Dimmock, manager of the Clemson Farmers Market, agrees.

"I don't see it as a competition, but rather a way to draw more people to the Upstate and help our agriculture be more successful," she said. "It's wonderful our small towns have something they can promote individually and as a team effort."

While fresh local produce receives what Dimmock calls "top billing" at any farmers market, she added that specialty foods and homemade arts and crafts are also major draws.

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