Farmers market adjusts hours

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Easley's Saturday farmers market is opening an hour earlier to help people beat the summer heat, and it may extend its hours into the fall growing season.

"We've found that a lot of our elderly customers get out before it gets hot," said Lisa Garrett, administrative assistant to the mayor, administrator and City Council for Easley.

The farmers market kicked off May 16 and is held every Saturday morning in the parking lot in front of City Hall.

Garrett said the market initially opened at 9 a.m., but that has been moved up to 8 a.m.

"It's been going really well," Garrett said. "We've been having some really good turnout ... It's just like a steady flow all day or until about 11:30."

The market closes each Saturday at noon.

But Garrett said she wished the crowds were bigger and said they hope more vendors will participate as the market becomes more popular.

Easley City Councilwoman Kim Valentin said residents wanted a market to open so they could purchase local produce and said the market also offers a venue for local farmers to sell their products.

"I think it's just one of those things that's really becoming popular," she said. "There are several farmers markets that are opening all across the United States that different towns are taking advantage of their local farmers and giving them the ability to sell in their area."

Garrett said the number of vendors varies but said the average is about 12 vendors each week. Vendors are charged $5 for a space at the market, she said.

There have also been discussions about keeping the market open until the end of the year.