

New Six Mile Farmers Market manager wants to increase community presence

BY LAUREN PIERCE
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SIX MILE — Six Mile's annual farmers market kicked off its season Thursday evening, and market manager Katie Rampey wants to see it grow.

Though it is only her first year as manager, Rampey said she already has big plans.

"I would like to make this a huge event every week," she said. "I'm trying to get food trucks to come every week, and we've got music for the opening day. Hopefully, we can get more people to do live music along with the food. I want it to be like a mini festival every week.

"During the summer, it's pretty well attended, so it is a big thing, and I want to make it bigger," Rampey added.

Twenty-one vendors quickly filled up the entire right side of the old Six Mile fire station at 102 S. Main St. on Thursday. Local produce and herbs, baked goods, a variety of handmade items, eggs, flowers and more were for sale.

Rampey said "about 20 regular vendors" sign up every year.

"Almost all of them live in Six Mile or close by in the surrounding areas, so they're not far away," she said. "I've got a couple of the Six Mile businesses that are going to have little promotional items I'll give out at the farmers market.

"I want to support Six Mile busi-



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Six Mile Farmers Market manager Katie Rampey stands near flowers for sale at the market in Six Mile on Thursday.

nesses and I want to support our farmers," Rampey added.

The first week usually draws "a good crowd," according to Rampey.

"We might have around 200 the first Thursday," she said. "Throughout the summer, we'll average about 100 people coming and going, but like I said, I want it to be so much more."

Town clerk Rita Martin said she'd like to see it become more, too.

"I think that is what the town is looking to do, and I think Katie is the perfect person to bring that into fruition," she said. "Eventu-

ally, the farmers market is going to be in an open-air market across the street, and that will be super to have a space just for it."

Central resident Kristy Hendricks had a table set up with an assortment of colorful handmade items for her fifth year at the farmers market.

"They're all either crocheted, sewn or knitted," she said. "Everything is handmade by myself or my mom."

Hendricks thinks a bigger event would "be great."

"It'd be great for the town and it'd be great for us vendors," she said. "The more the merrier. The fact that we're able to still do this, is amazing. It's such a wonderful outlet to still be able to connect with people."

West Trip, 11, considers himself an entrepreneur and had a table set up with his mom, Heather.

"We're selling snow cones, brownies and cookies," he said. "I just wanted to have a little bit more money. I'm going to use some of it for more snow cone flavors and some of it for Legos."

Heather said her son has his own "little business" and loves the TV show "Shark Tank," in which entrepreneurs present their ideas to potential investors.

Pennsylvania native Sara Hardin brought Amish-inspired baked goods.

"I grew up there around the Amish, and my grandmother is Mennonite," she said. "Everything is Amish-inspired here. We've got cinnamon rolls, breads and a heavy almond strawberry cake. What was back home, I've brought with me."

While there was some produce for sale, Rampey said she is expecting a lot more of it next month.

"Some of the produce hasn't come in yet, so a bunch of my people who have farms don't have anything yet, unfortunately," she said. "About the middle of May is when a lot of the produce starts coming in good and people can come check it all out then."

The market runs every Thursday from 4-7 p.m. and will continue until the last week of September.



Pots of flowers hang among the vendors at the Six Mile Farmers Market on Thursday evening.