

New Winter Market and EBT Project

SID Public Services Association of Columbus, Ohio received \$61,229 to establish a new winter farmers market; implement new EBT systems at an existing summer market; and establish EBT at the new winter market. This work increased consumer access to farmers markets and provided farmers and vendors better direct retail opportunities.

[Final Report FY09](#)



PEARL MARKET
Winter

FINAL STATUS REPORT

**A REPORT TO THE USDA FARMERS' MARKET PROMOTION
PROGRAM**

Submitted by SID Public Services Association

Grant # 12-25-G-0969

September 30, 2011

Final Status Report of Assigned Grants

Organization Name: SID Public Services Association

President: James Cleve Ricksecker

Grant Number: 12-25-G-0969

Budget Period: September 29, 2009 – September 29, 2011

Project Period: September 29, 2009 – September 29, 2011

Project Manager: Adam Schroeder

Phone Number: 614-645-5061

Project Description: SID Public Services Association will establish an indoor winter farmers' and merchants' market as a continuation of the summer outdoor Pearl Market. The winter market operate November through February on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. SID Public Services Association will also implement a new EBT project at the newly formed winter market and at the existing summer market.

Project Status as of: September 29, 2011

Project Achievement(s)

- 1.) Developed farmer and merchant applications (see attached materials)
- 2.) Developed winter market rules and regulations (see attached materials)
- 3.) Developed winter market co-op program for vendors that could not staff a booth but who's products we wanted in the market (see attached materials)
- 4.) Applied to be able to accept both credit cards & EBT cards and developed a vendor agreement that would not pass any cost on to the customers (see attached materials)
- 5.) Held the Winter Pearl Market on 26 occasions in 2009-2010 at 20 E. Broad St. and on 30 occasions in 2010-2011 at 33 N. Third St.
- 6.) Recruited and enrolled 68 vendors in the Winter Pearl Market over two seasons - 54 merchants & 14 farmers
- 7.) Successfully operated the EBT & credit card machine at the Winter Pearl Market. A total of \$842 in EBT transactions and \$10,295.41 in credit card transactions occurred during the two Winter Markets.
- 8.) Successfully operated the EBT & credit card machine at the Summer Pearl Market. A total of \$4,419 in EBT transactions and \$32,566.88 in credit card transactions occurred during the two Summer Markets.
- 9.) Hired daily live entertainment to play at each market to encourage customers to linger in the market which would lead to increased sales.
- 10.) Hired Market Crew Members to assist the Market Manager and Promotions Coordinator on Market days.

- 11.) Implemented a promotional program including:
 - a. Featured column in a weekly Right Now Downtown e-mail distributed to approximately 5,000 subscribers by Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District. Column featured market updates, as well as promotions to draw people to the market.
 - b. Weekly mentions in the Downtown News Network, a weekly e-alert distributed to downtown property managers who redistribute to tenants. Reaches approximately 6,000 readers
 - c. Placement on www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket
 - d. Placement on www.localharvest.com
 - e. Placement on www.experiencecolumbus.com
 - f. Distribution of promotional posters to downtown businesses
 - g. Placement of six magnetic “Fresh Today” lobby signs in office towers around downtown
 - h. Produced two winter market A-frame to sit on the sidewalk in front of the market on market days to draw people in.
 - i. Produced signage to help customers identify the “Market Tent,” “Sample Tent,” and vendor directional pole system.
 - j. Volunteers twice dressed as “walking talking veggies” and distributed market information to passersby on the street.
 - k. Distributed market postcards with a sticker reading “Bring this card & a friend and each of you will receive a \$5 token” to help draw traffic in.
 - l. Posts to Pearl Market Facebook page with 811 “fans”
 - m. Posts on Pearl Market Twitter page with 2,424 “followers”
 - n. Purchased four 1/3 page full-color ads to appear in the February 2011 editions of the Columbus Alive (weekly paper) to help drive traffic to the Market after a noticed lull in January.

- 12.) Media coverage included:
 - a. Pearl Market to Run Through the Winter Months – www.columbusunderground.com (see attached materials)
 - b. Columbus Downtown Farmers’ Markets – www.urbanohio.com (see attached materials)
 - c. Off the Rack: Local Shopping Briefs – Columbus Alive (see attached materials)
 - d. Window Shopping: Winter Pearl Market – Columbus Alive (see attached materials)
 - e. Call for Submissions: Pearl Market Artist Showcase – www.columbusunderground.com (see attached materials)
 - f. Holiday Gift Guide: 20 for \$20 – Columbus Alive (see attached materials)
 - g. Holiday Gift Guide: Pet Presents – Columbus Alive (see attached materials)
 - h. Commit to be Fit: Jan. – Feb. Market Spotlight: 10TV.com (see attached materials)
 - i. Nothing to do Downtown? Bite This! – www.CMHGourmand.com (see attached materials)
 - j. Organizers want winter version of Pearl Market to become permanent – The Daily Reporter (see attached materials)

- k. Indoor Farmers – The Columbus Dispatch (see attached materials), Story picked up by AP and also appeared in the Dayton Daily News, www.Dailyme.com, and www.weather.com.
- l. Cider Pressing, Thanksgiving Turkeys & Winter Markets – www.houndsinthekitchen.com (see attached materials)
- m. Updated placement on www.localharvest.com.
- n. Winter Pearl Market 2010-2011 – www.columbusunderground.com (see attached materials)
- o. Winter Pearl Market doing well, but future uncertain – The Daily Reporter 12/8/2010

Key Outcomes:

The following work was completed between October 2010 and March 2011:

- Produced the Winter Pearl Market on 56 occasions between November 2, 2009 & February 25, 2011. A total of 54 merchants and 14 farmers participated over the two seasons.
- Produced new Market signage to help draw customer interest and assist them in finding market vendors and the Market Tent.
- Purchased supplies that are able to be used in both the Summer and Winter Pearl Markets.
- Implemented EBT/Credit Card transactions in both the Summer and Winter Pearl Markets, totaling over \$48,123 in transactions.

Lessons Learned:

- There is currently unmet retail and local food demand in downtown Columbus.
- More outreach and education to Ohio growers about fall/winter growing methods/resources is needed. With more winter markets opening, more and more Ohio growers are beginning to explore fall/winter growing. However we are seeing learning curve when it comes to having enough produce to supply a market consistently.
- More outreach and education to Ohio customers about fall/winter growing is needed. Customers need education on what locally grown produce is available during the fall/winter months, and on how to prepare it. In our second year, one grower started to print off recipes found online and saw his sale improve significantly once he started to provide these recipes to costumers.
- Having to switch locations for our second season hurt foot traffic. Our first season we were located in a vacant building located at 20 E. Broad St., at the end of the first market season (February 2010), the building owners announced plans to redevelop 20 E. Broad and two adjoining properties into a boutique hotel. Although construction had not yet begun when we were preparing for our second season, we were unable to secure the use of 20 E. Broad and had to move the Winter Pearl Market to 33 N. Third St. Even though the new location remained on the same city block as the first location, we noticed a significant drop in foot traffic.
- Foot traffic diminished each season during the month of January, and then would pick back up in February. We believe that weather and it being right after the holiday season may have hindered customers spending during the month of January. During our second season we made a conscious effort to schedule promotions and giveaways during each Market day.

- Our Winter Pearl Market CO-OP was one of the more popular aspects of the Winter Market. The Pearl Market CO-OP was designed to allow vendors to participate who we did not have room for, or had a product that we wanted in the Market but could not commit the staff time to. These vendors paid a \$25/month fee to have their products represented as part of our CO-OP. Pearl Market staff would monitor the area acting as sales staff. This included answering questions, tracking sales, tracking credit card/EBT card transactions, and cutting monthly checks back to the vendors minus any credit card fees.
- Having access to the credit card/EBT machine at the Market directly increased customer spending. Prior to having access to the machine, staff would often get asked where the closest ATM was, staff would then direct the customer out of the Market and hope that they would return to make a purchase. We have found that outreach to credit card customers has been fairly simple. Outreach to EBT recipients has proven to be more of a challenge. Credit card/EBT information has appeared on Summer and Winter Market posters, flyers, postcards, A-frames, and advertisements since the 2009-2010 Winter Pearl Market. We have found that our best marketing tool for both the credit card and EBT program has been word of mouth from returning customers telling friends, and from vendors up-selling their customers.

Moving Forward: SID Public Services Association/Pearl Market remains committed to providing Ohio growers and merchants an outlet for their goods during the fall/winter months once the current grant ends. We are currently exploring the costs of several ideas ranging from a Winter Market as we have operated the past two seasons, a Best of Pearl Market store structured similarly to the Market CO-OP, or a hybrid of the two.

The credit card/EBT program will continue at the Summer Pearl Market (and any other markets offered by SID Public Services Association). Although there is a the monthly transaction fees, and the cost of a staff person to run the machine, we see the machine as a great benefit not only to our customers, but also as a great benefit that we can offer to our vendors.

Market Manager, Adam Schroeder, is the current President of the Farmers' Market Management Network (www.fmmn.org). Through this position he has been in a position to share information about credit card/EBT processing with a network of farmers' markets and vendors from around the state of Ohio. Mr. Schroeder has presented information and encouraged markets to enroll in the program at the FMNN Annual Conference each of the past two years.

Contact Person:

Adam Schroeder
Pearl Market Manager, SID Public Services Association
23 North Fourth St.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-5061 (office phone)
614-724-0276 (office fax)
aeschroeder@sidservices.com
www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket

Pictures from the 2009-2011 Winter Pearl Market



A customer purchases some hydroponic tomatoes from VanScoy Farms.



Customers stop to sample cheeses from Ohio Farm Direct worker Bob West.



Marcia Bergefurd of Bergefurd's Farm Market proudly displays one of her popular Diakon Radishes.



Farm fresh apples from Ochs' Fruit Farm & hand poured soaps from J Squared Organics were two of the Market's best-sellers during the 2010-2011 Winter Pearl Market.



Winter Pearl Market branded window art showcased the Winter Pearl Market and helped to draw customers in to the Market.



Winter Pearl Market Crew Member Cindy shows off the credit card/EBT machine. During the two year grant period the Market ran over \$48,000 in transactions.



Winter Market Season 2010-2011

Dear Farmer/Grower:

Due to customer and vendor interest, Pearl Market has decided to expand the season through February 2011. We would like to invite you to apply for a space in our indoor winter market.

Downtown's Winter Pearl Market offers a unique urban setting to introduce your goods to an appreciative audience. Within a five minute walk of this location are over **41,000 office workers**, plus over **1,200 hotel rooms** and approximately **600 apartments and condo units**.

The markets will operate from **November 2, 2010 through February 25, 2011**, on **Tuesdays and Fridays** from **10:30a.m. to 2:00p.m.** The fee for space is \$60/month for two days a week, and \$50/month for one day a week. Seasonal rates are available for \$220 and \$190 respectfully. As part of your rental fee, we will provide one six foot table for you. Electricity, storage, and additional tables are available for small extra fees. Additionally, market promotions, advertising, technical assistance, and support are provided at **no cost**.

In order to participate, **you must grow/produce 100% of what you sell**. You must provide proof of carrying a minimum of \$1,000,000 insurance and obtain an Ohio Vendor License (if you sell a taxable item), provide additional displays and signage if needed, remain open for business during scheduled market hours, accept all market currency (gift certificates, EBT/"food stamps" tokens, and credit card tokens), and provide a farm tour to staff before your first scheduled Market day, unless previously conducted for the summer market.

We hope that you are as excited as we are about this special opportunity. Space is extremely limited, we will select growers to participate in this year's Pearl Market based upon their product line, appropriateness for our venue, days of the week participating, and number of months participating. Please submit your application to:

Capital Crossroads SID
Adam Schroeder
23 N. Fourth St.
Columbus, OH 43215

For more information on the Market, visit www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Adam Schroeder
Pearl Market Manager



23 N. Fourth St.
Columbus, OH 43215
USA

PHONE (614) 645-5061
FAX (614) 724-0276
E-MAIL aeschroeder@SIDservices.com
WEB SITE <http://downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket>

2010-2011 WINTER
PEARL MARKET
FARMER APPLICATION

CAPITAL CROSSROADS SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (CCSID)

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

FARM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: BUSINESS: ____-____-____ HOME: ____-____-____

MOBILE: ____-____-____ FAX: ____-____-____

WEB ADDRESS: _____

E-Mail ADDRESS: _____

1. Which day(s) will you participate at the Pearl Market?

- Tuesday and Friday Tuesday Only Friday Only

2. Which month (s) will you participate at the Pearl Market?

- Entire 2009-2010 Season November December January February

3. How did you hear about us?

- Returning vendor Market mailing (Please circle: paper or electronic) Market brochure
 Referred by another vendor _____ Met staff at event _____
 Picked up information at the Market Other _____

4. How long has your farm been in business? What do you grow and/or raise?

5. What will you sell at the Pearl Market? What is your price range? (Attached photographs of products are encouraged)

6. Do you sell any value added products? _____

If so, do you have a Vendor's License? Yes (enclose a copy) No

Do you have a Mobile Food License? Yes (enclose a copy) No

7. Do you accept WIC Coupons? Yes No

8. Will you require electricity (extra monthly charge)? **No generators will be permitted.**

No Yes For what purpose? _____

9. Can you provide proof of 1 million dollars insurance? Yes (enclose a copy) No

(Information retained from questions #10 and #11 are kept strictly confidential.)

10. Gender (Circle One): Male Female

11. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): / /

Please note: Completion of this application does not guarantee placement in Pearl Market. Farmers for Pearl Market will be selected by the Capital Crossroads SID by mid October. The Market will be open for business from 10:30 am-2:00 pm. Participants are expected to be present for set-up and close-down, typically 9:30 am-2:30 pm., and follow all Market Rules & Regulations.

Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only	
Accepted: _____	Declined: _____
Date Enrolled: ____/____/____	Start Date: ____/____/____
Notes:	



Winter Market Season 2010-2011

Dear Merchant:

Due to customer and vendor interest, Pearl Market has decided to expand the season through February 2011. We would like to invite you to apply for a space in our indoor winter market.

Downtown's Winter Pearl Market offers a unique urban setting to introduce your goods to an appreciative audience. Within a five minute walk of this location are over **41,000 office workers**, plus over **1,200 hotel rooms** and approximately **600 apartments and condo units**.

The markets will operate from **November 2, 2010 through February 25, 2011**, on **Tuesdays and Fridays** from **10:30a.m. to 2:00p.m.** The fee for space is \$60/month for two days a week, and \$50/month for one day a week. Seasonal rates are available for \$220 and \$190 respectfully. As part of your rental fee, we will provide one six foot table for you. Electricity, storage, and additional tables are available for small extra fees. Additionally, market promotions, advertising, technical assistance, and support are provided at **no cost**.

In order to participate as a vendor, you must obtain an Ohio Vendor License. Also, you must provide additional displays and signage if needed, remain open for business during scheduled market hours, accept all market currency (gift certificates, EBT/"food stamps" tokens, and credit card tokens) and record and submit weekly sales information (reported sales are strictly confidential).

We hope that you are as excited as we are about this special opportunity. Space is extremely limited, we will select merchants to participate in this year's Pearl Market based upon their product line, appropriateness for our venue, days of the week participating, and number of months participating. Please submit your application to:

Capital Crossroads SID
Adam Schroeder
23 N. Fourth St.
Columbus, OH 43215

For more information on the Market, visit www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Adam Schroeder
Pearl Market Manager



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WEB SITE <http://downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket>

2010-2011 WINTER
PEARL MARKET
MERCHANT APPLICATION

CAPITAL CROSSROADS SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (CCSID)

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: BUSINESS: ____-____-____ HOME: ____-____-____

MOBILE: ____-____-____ FAX: ____-____-____

WEB ADDRESS: _____

E-Mail ADDRESS: _____

1. Which day(s) will you participate at the Pearl Market?

- Tuesday and Friday Tuesday Only Friday Only

2. Which month (s) will you participate at the Pearl Market?

- Entire 2009-2010 Season November December January February

3. How did you hear about us?

- Returning vendor Market mailing (Please circle: paper or electronic) Market brochure
 Referred by another vendor _____ Met staff at event _____
 Picked up information at the Market Other _____

4. Do you currently have a business? _____ Yes _____ No For how long? _____

If Yes, What type of business? Where is it located? What products do you sell?

5. Are you currently employed outside of your business?: ___Yes ___No What is your weekly schedule?

6. Do you currently have a Vendor's License? Yes (enclose a copy) No
Do you have a Mobile Food License? Yes (enclose a copy) No

7. Who is your target audience for the items you sell?

8. What will you sell at the Pearl Market? What is your price range? (Attached photographs of products are encouraged)

9. Will you require electricity (extra monthly charge)? **No generators will be permitted.**

No Yes For what purpose? _____

(Information retained from questions #10 and #11 are kept strictly confidential.)

10. Gender (Circle One): Male Female

11. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): / /

Please note: Completion of this application does not guarantee business placement in Pearl Market. Merchants for Pearl Market will be selected by the Capital Crossroads SID by mid October. The Market will be open for business 10:30 am-2:00 pm. Participants are expected to be present for set-up and close-down, typically 9:30 am-2:30 pm., and follow all Market Rules & Regulations.

Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only

Accepted: _____

Declined: _____

Date Enrolled: ____/____/____

Start Date: ____/____/____

Notes:



2010 – 2011 Winter Pearl Market Season

Dear Farmer,

Congratulations! You have been accepted to be a vendor in the 2010 - 2011 Winter Pearl Market. We are very excited to have you joining us this season. We believe that your products will help create a nice variety of offerings for the Market shoppers.

Vendors with a Mobile Food License **MUST** provide staff with a copy of the license **PRIOR** to opening day.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Winter Pearl Market contract, the rules & regulations, and optional storage agreement. In the line marked "Term," please either fill out "November 2010" if paying monthly or "2010 - 2011 Season" if you intend to pay the seasonal rate. Please review the rules & regulations and sign the back page. Payment of Market fees can be made in cash, check made payable to "**SID Public Services Association.**", or via credit card (there is a 5% transaction fee on all credit card payments)

You are required to turn all of the above noted materials in **prior to the close of business on Friday October 29, 2010**. Materials will not be accepted on opening day, and those with incomplete files will not be permitted to sell on opening day.

For planning purposes, each vendor space is approximately 6' long and 6' deep.

Vendors wishing to drop off display items, merchandise, or see the space may do so on Monday **November 1, 2010 between 10:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. and between 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.** If you are interested in doing this, please call Adam at 614-645-5061, before November 1st to arrange a time.

Thank you again for your interest and welcome to Pearl Market. We look forward to working with you during the 2010-2011 Winter Pearl Market Season. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Adam Schroeder
Pearl Market Manager



23 N. Fourth St.
Columbus, OH 43215
USA

PHONE (614) 645-5061
FAX (614) 724-0276
E-MAIL aeschroeder@SIDservices.com
WEB SITE <http://www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket>



2010 – 2011 Winter Pearl Market Season

Dear Merchant,

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Thank you,

Adam Schroeder
Pearl Market Manager



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WEB SITE <http://www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket>

2010 – 2011 Pearl Market Indoor Winter Market

Storage Agreement

I, _____, am a vendor in the 2009 – 2010 Pearl Market Indoor Winter Market who is interested in storing some of my products and displays in the Market space during non-market days.

I understand that on-site secured storage will be offered for a one-time fee of \$25. Vendor merchandise must be packed in an orderly fashion at the end of each Market day. All merchandise should be packed in a manner that it can be easily moved if need be. I take all risk of loss or damage to my merchandise or other property, no matter how it is caused. I will obtain any insurance I want for my merchandise and other property. The organizers are not responsible for property lost, stolen or damaged, Organizers means Capital Crossroads, their employees and agents, the City of Columbus, any associated organization, and any of their employees or agents.

Vendors opting to use on-site storage must pack products in large plastic bins that are clearly labeled with your business name, your name, and bin number (1 of 2, 2 of 3 ect.). NO PERISHABLES OR FOOD ITEMS OF ANY KIND UNLESS VERY TIGHTLY AND SECURELY SEALED.

Additional storage fees may be charged if a vendor is storing a large amount of items or items stored are especially bulky/heavy. When such a situation arises, the Market Manager will address the storage needs directly with the vendor. Adjusted storage rates will go into effect immediately.

If a vendor needs access to their stored items on a non-market day, they may contact the Market Manager to see if schedule permits. If you require meeting the Market Manager to access storage on a non-market day, there will be a \$5 fee assessed.

X _____

Signature

Date

X _____

Name, please print

X _____

Business name



Foot Traffic Counts November 2, 2010

10: 30am – 10: 40am: _____ People _____ Staff Name

Notes:

11: 30am – 11: 40am: _____ People _____ Staff Name

Notes:

12: 30pm – 12: 40pm: _____ People _____ Staff Name

Notes:

1: 30pm – 1: 40pm: _____ People _____ Staff Name

Notes:



PEARL MARKET

Winter

IT'S INDOORS!

Tuesdays & Fridays

10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

November Through February

33 N. Third Street – right next to Lynn Alley



Accepting the Ohio Directions Card
and all major credit cards.

DowntownColumbus.com/PEARLMARKET

Facebook: Pearl Market Twitter: PEARLMARKET



PEARL MARKET

Winter

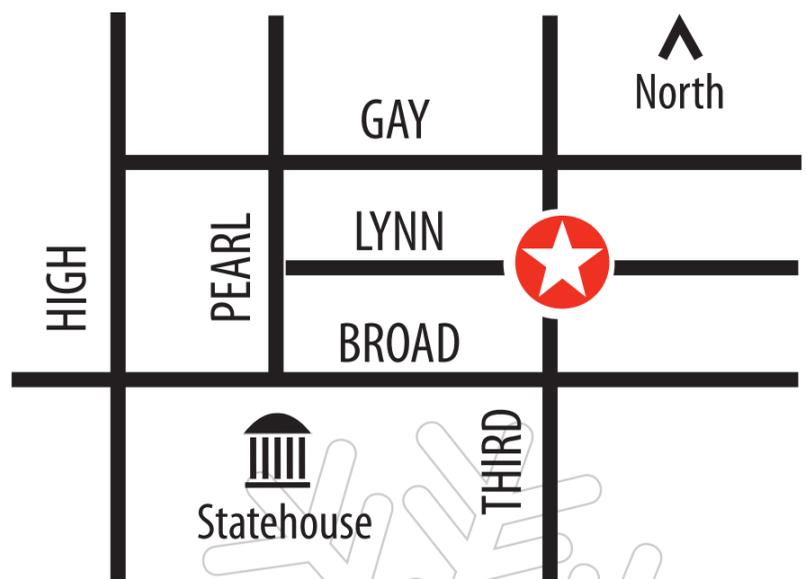


WEEKLY GIVEAWAYS/LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

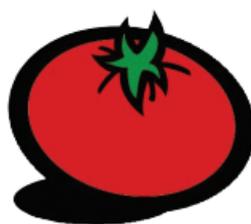
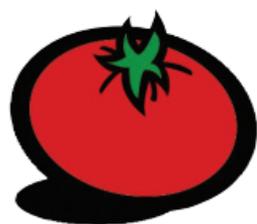
Keep the winter chill at bay and join us at Pearl Market when we move things indoors from November through February.

The days and times remain the same - Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chat with many of the same vendors that you see during the summer Market and get to know a few new ones, too. The only difference is you'll stay toasty warm while you heat things up shopping for homemade and homegrown goodies.

Just like summer, the Winter Pearl Market accepts major credit cards and the Ohio Direction Card so you don't even need to come with a fistful of cash.



DowntownColumbus.com



PEARL MARKET

Tuesdays & Fridays
10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

INDOORS THROUGH FEBRUARY

33 N. Third Street –
right next to Lynn Alley

DowntownColumbus.com/PEARLMARKET

Facebook: Pearl Market

Twitter: PEARLMARKET



Accepting the Ohio Direction
Card and all major credit cards.

This Market is based on work supported by the Farmer
Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant Program,
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, and under Award
No. 12-25-G-0969



Learn how to navigate the EBT application process

Training participants will hear from Sheila Jacobs, officer-in-charge for the Retailers Service Center—Midwest Region USDA, Food & Nutrition Service. Participants will receive:

- Step-by-step instruction for the USDA FNS application
- A completed draft application
- Best practices to accept EBT at farm and farmers' markets, such as costs and promotions
- Expertise from a panel of market managers who have knowledge about the EBT application process
- Information about other food assistance programs (i.e. WIC, SFMNP and FMNP)

Register on-line:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CWVKTRV>

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Jane Forrest Redfern, Rural Policy
Office of Families and Children
Phone: 740-797-7906
E-mail: Jane.Forrest-Redfern@jfs.ohio.gov

OSU South Centers
Christie Welch
Farmers' Market Specialist
Phone: 740-289-2071 ext. 234
E-mail: welch.183@osu.edu

Ohio Department of Agriculture
Donna Gilbride
Farmers' Markets Outreach Coordinator
Phone: 614-644-5783
E-mail: DGilbride@agri.ohio.gov

This training is brought to you by:

Ohio | Department of
Job and Family Services

Ohio | Department of
Agriculture

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
South Centers

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Farmers' Markets

EBT Training

November 15, 2010
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ohio Department of Agriculture
Bromfield Administration Building
8995 E. Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Registration Information

Farm markets and farmers' markets who are interested in learning how to accept Electronic Benefits Transfer (the Ohio Direction Card) at their markets should attend this training.

When: Monday, November 15, 2010

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Bromfield Administration Building.

For directions, visit www.agri.ohio.gov

Register on-line:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CWVKTRV>

For questions about registration, contact:

Jane Forrest Redfern, Rural Policy

Office of Families and Children

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

Phone: 740-797-7906

E-mail: Jane.Forrest-Redfern@jfs.ohio.gov



Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) is required to accept the Ohio Direction Card at your market. Ohio distributed more than \$2 billion in food assistance through the Ohio Direction Card in 2009. Are you capturing your share of these dollars for your market?

Agenda

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:00 a.m. | Welcome & Introductions |
| 9:15 a.m. | Overview of food assistance programs: SNAP, WIC, FMNP, SFMNP |
| 9:45 a.m. | Accepting EBT—What is involved? |
| 10:45 a.m. | Step-by-step instructions on how to complete the USDA FNS application |
| 11:45 a.m. | Farmers' Market Managers Panel |
| 12:30 p.m. | Closing |

Beverages will be provided. Please feel free to bring your own snacks.

For directions to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

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Pearl Market to Run Through The Winter Months

By Walker | September 21, 2009 4:30pm | Filed under [Events](#), [Shopping](#) | [Comments](#)

The seasonal Pearl Market that takes place Downtown every summer is expanding to run an indoor Winter Market starting in November. The new market will be held inside the building located at 20 East Broad Street, next to Pearl Alley where the summer market takes place. The same hours of operation will be in effect: Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30am through 2:00pm. The Winter Market will run from November 3rd to February 26th, 2010.



The Winter Market is currently accepting Farmers and Merchants looking to register as vendors. The vendor packet and other registration info can be found [here](#).

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This entry was posted on Monday, September 21st, 2009 at 4:30 pm and is filed under [Events](#), [Shopping](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS feed](#). You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

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- [Pearl Market Opens Downtown Today](#)
- [Pearl Market Opens Downtown on May 19th](#)

13 Responses to "Pearl Market to Run Through The Winter Months"



Columbusite Says: #1
September 21st, 2009 at 4:44 pm

Great news! I'm curious about the change in the ambiance. Even if it's not as nice as having it outdoors, it will beat not having it at all during colder months.



lizless Says: #2
September 21st, 2009 at 4:58 pm

great news!

TaraK Says: #3
September 21st, 2009 at 9:56 pm

What does a farmer's market have during the winter? I've never known of a winter farmer's market.



2010 Downtown Strategic Plan Meeting #1 Recap
Photo Credit: Walker Evans



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- Art (494)
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- Development (1406)
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Walker Says: #4
September 21st, 2009 at 10:14 pm

Worthington's operates year round. Article from Sept 2007 [HERE](#). From that article:

Come winter, the farmers' market will carry apples stored after the harvest, potatoes and possibly carrots, herbs and spinach.

There might even be flowers grown in a greenhouse.

I would expect something similar at the Pearl Market along with some of their prepared food vendors, merchant vendors, as well as the possibility of non-seasonal farm items like meats or milk or cheese? I guess it all depends on the lineup of vendors that apply over the next few weeks. I'm sure we'll hear more about it before opening day to know what to expect.



Manatee Says: #5
September 22nd, 2009 at 8:49 am

Oh, and squash, right?

This is great news.

I think I might go into withdrawal without a farmer's market! Shopping at the farmer's market is so satisfying and fun, I look forward to it every week.



racheltb Says: #6
September 22nd, 2009 at 8:57 am

The Pearl Alley market is one of my favorites because it is not too crowded and kid friendly. I am excited to have a reason to visit downtown with my child this winter.



jfellrath Says: #7
September 22nd, 2009 at 10:20 am

You know, I've never been to Pearl Alley market and I need to do so. Looks like they're making it easier to do that. Great!

Is there a reason they do it on weekdays and not Saturdays? Might be a neat way to draw people back downtown on the

weekends...



Walker Says: #8
September 22nd, 2009 at 2:19 pm

The weekday hours for the Pearl Market seem to serve the downtown workforce in the best manner. The North Market Farmer's Market is on Saturdays, and does a pretty good job of bringing folks Downtown on the weekend.



Walker Says: #9
October 7th, 2009 at 9:28 pm

Press Release:

Pearl Market Receives Grant to Expand

The U.S. Department of Agricultural has awarded Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District a \$61,000 grant to operate the Pearl Market during the winter. The grant, part of the Department's Farmers Market Promotion Program, will allow Capital Crossroads to produce the Pearl Market on Tuesdays and Fridays from November 1 through February 28.

The grant will also allow the Pearl Market to accept the Electronic Benefits Transfer for Ohio Direction Card users. The Ohio Direction Card is a program of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which allows eligible people to receive food subsidies.

Twenty-six vendors are expected to participate in the winter market. In addition to fresh produce, vendors will offer a variety of hand-crafted items, baked goods,



- Italian Village
- King-Lincoln District
- Market Exchange
- Merion Village
- Olde Towne East
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artwork, and other goods. The Market will take place on the first floor of 20 East Broad Street, immediately next to Pearl Alley.

"We said we would expand the Market when vendors and customers showed interest," said Cleve Ricksecker, Executive Director of Capital Crossroads. "The timing of the Agricultural Department grant could not be better. Downtown is starved for retail services, and this winter market should do very well."

The Market has operated in Pearl Alley since 1992. It has increased in size and presence in the past several years and has become a growing attraction in downtown. The Market features fresh, locally grown produce, baked goods, arts and crafts, lunch fare, and daily live entertainment. For more information on the Pearl Market, please visit <http://www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket/>



Walker Says:

November 3rd, 2009 at 10:48 am

#10

Press Release:

Winter Pearl Market Opens Today

Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District will open the Winter Pearl Market indoors on the first floor of 20 E. Broad Street today thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nearly 30 vendors will offer fresh produce, meats, cheeses, eggs, baked goods, arts, crafts and other goods today in the first winter market extension of the outdoor Pearl Market. Additional vendors are slated to join the winter market in the coming weeks. The winter market will be open each Tuesday and Friday from 10:30am to 2pm from November 3 through February 26, 2010.



Walker Says:

November 17th, 2009 at 11:11 pm

#11

Some video footage of the Pearl Winter Market:

[Pearl Market Moment: Inside the Winter Market!](#) from [Downtown Columbus](#) on [Vimeo](#).



joev Says:

November 18th, 2009 at 3:12 pm

#12

I can't remember if I posted this elsewhere on CU or Facebook or Twitter or what, but I really love the indoor market! The setup is really nice, especially with grouping vendors by category. The variety of produce is pretty amazing, considering it's November. Last time I went, I got cabbage, turnips and watermelon radishes. I pickled the turnips and gosh are they good!



Walker Says:

February 27th, 2010 at 10:09 am

#13

Pearl Alley's winter market has promising start in first season

Friday, February 26, 2010

BY TRACY TURNER

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

It was the buffalo patties that drew Nancy Hamilton to the Pearl Market Downtown this winter. And the buffalo sticks and ribeye steaks - both cuts of meat that the North Side resident and Downtown worker said she's grown to love.

Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch, which sells her favorite products, is 37 miles away in Thornville, but since Hamilton discovered the company's booth at the Pearl Market, she's been a steady customer.

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March 15, 2010, 11:28:35 AM

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News: We are in the middle of editing thousands of posts. If you do not see your favorite thread, do not worry. It will be back once cleaned.

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Author

Topic: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets (Read 3346 times)

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noozer

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Posts: 1249



Hail, Hail
Freedonia....



Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« on: June 03, 2008, 07:21:00 AM »

**Two farmers' markets to sprout Downtown
Business breakup results in competition, with Nationwide helping set up new site**

Tuesday, June 3, 2008 3:09 AM

By Monique Curet

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The annual Pearl Alley farmers' market opens today, but with a different group of farmers and an expanded lineup of items for sale.

The farmers' group that pioneered the Downtown warm-weather market is setting up shop elsewhere because of a disagreement with the market's sponsors. Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, which holds the permit for the market, and the farmers' group could not agree on the location of produce and general-merchandise booths and parted ways late last year.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2008/0603/pearl_alley.ART_ART_03-08_C10_9OACOVJ.html?sid=101

« Last Edit: September 09, 2009, 01:31:43 PM by »

"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt." (William Shakespeare)

rider

Global Moderator


 Online

Posts: 2816

**Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets**

« Reply #1 on: June 04, 2008, 09:05:57 AM »

I've always liked that Pearl Alley Farmers' Market. Didn't get to the opening yesterday but numerous posters to Columbus Underground did. Their posts are at <http://www.columbusunderground.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=14573>.

Here's the location map of the two farmers' markets to be in downtown Columbus this year from the Dispatch article:



Glad to see the Growers Association that left Pearl Alley found another location downtown. Looks like they're going to that triangular patch of grass Nationwide owns at Nationwide & High. Partnering with Nationwide should be a plus for them. Hope it works out for them.

"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

WalkerEvans

629'-Rhodes State Tower


 Offline

Posts: 628



ColumbusUnderground

**Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets**

« Reply #2 on: June 11, 2008, 06:27:21 PM »

From here: <http://www.columbusunderground.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=14750>



So, I just got back from the Pearl Market, and I had to sit right down and tell everyone to get there on their lunch break for some **Nellie's Samosas**. I am always lamenting our lack of street food here in Cbus, so when I saw the samosas I was excited.

The samosas are fried fresh and they have this amazingly aromatic spice blend, and are only slightly spicy. There's a nice little hot aftertaste, but the chai cooled it right down. I had the meat version, but they also have a vegetarian version. They are served with lemon wedges which they encourage you to squeeze over the pastry.

inside:



They also have freshly made iced chai which is very good. The woman in line in front of me said it tasted just like the chai in India. It was spicy and not too sweet, strong on the tea and refreshing. I am sure it will be welcome on days when it is really sweltering.



2 palm-sized samosas are \$4, Iced Chai was \$2.50, so the snack (which could be lunch for some) was \$6.50. totally worth it for the homemade treats. And if you are scared to buy, they have tiny little sample-sized samosas.

Please support small upstarts like this! They make our city a better place!

Nellie's Samosa's stand is located just north of Ringside, on the same side of the alley

« Last Edit: May 19, 2009, 12:21:11 PM by rider »

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<http://www.columbusunderground.com> - A dynamic discussion about life in Columbus, Ohio.

rider

Global Moderator



 Online

Posts: 2816



Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« Reply #3 on: July 20, 2008, 07:44:37 PM »

Market watch

By Brittany Kress

Columbus Alive - July 17, 2008

Although the alley between Rhodes Tower and the Broad & High building has hosted a summer market for years, this year's market has different vendors and a few different offerings. The change comes after Capital Crossroads, which manages the market, parted with the Pear Alley Growers' Association, which lined up farmers to sell there. The two groups went their separate ways after disagreements over things like the location of produce and general-merchandise booths. The Pearl Alley Growers' Association and many of its farmers, in turn, relocated to a new market near Nationwide, which debuted last Thursday. The Nationwide-Pearl Alley Growers market is smaller and more serene, with 10 vendors set up in a row along the grassy space at the northwest corner of High Street and Nationwide Boulevard, said market manager Marcy Musson.



Read more at <http://columbusalive.com/?sec=living&story=alive/2008/0717/s-window.html>

« Last Edit: September 09, 2009, 01:31:10 PM by rider »

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rider

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Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« Reply #4 on: July 31, 2008, 06:22:11 PM »

Farmers' markets enable pros to find affordable, flavorful produce

Posts: 2816

for diners**Wednesday, July 30, 2008****BY JILL LASTER, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH**

Not much excites Tony Miller the way eggplants at the North Market do. Except maybe tomatoes. "You come down and go, 'Ooh, ooh, ooh,' " said Miller, the chef at Latitude 41 in the Columbus Renaissance hotel since it opened in 2006. Miller and other chefs seek the best ingredients for their dishes. In central Ohio, many trust farmers' markets for the freshest tasting, most interesting and, in some cases, least expensive fruits and vegetables. Miller buys produce from such markets almost exclusively during the summer -- especially in June and July, the peak season for tomatoes, sweet corn, green peppers and some other choices. To gauge how a pro prepares for his kitchen creations, The Dispatch recently went grocery shopping with Miller.

Read more at

http://dispatch.com/live/content/food/stories/2008/07/30/5_CHEF30.ART_ART_07-30-08_E1_TNARC7F.html?sid=101

« Last Edit: September 09, 2009, 01:30:02 PM by rider »

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WalkerEvans

629'-Rhodes State Tower


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**Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets**

« Reply #5 on: August 02, 2008, 06:41:53 PM »

From here: <http://walker.columbusunderground.com/?p=779>**What can \$10 at the North Market get you?**

ColumbusUnderground

On Saturday, Anne & I dropped by the [North Market](#) to pick up a few items. We got there around 3:30, and only one of the farmer's market vendors were still open outside. If you want the best selection you've got to get there between 8am and 10am. I was actually sort of surprised they were still there past noon.

Anyway, we walked over to see what they were offering, and the guy at the booth quickly sold us on what he called "gourmet sized" eggplants and potatoes. He rambled off a few recipe ideas and described a candlelit dinner for us. How can you turn down a salesman like that? The best part was the fact that a pound of eggplants and a pound of potatoes only ran us \$2.75. Quite the steal for fresh locally grown products.

We wandered inside the market to pick up a few other things. I was in the mood for some [Jeni's](#) (single scoop of Backyard Mint that I shared with Desi) while Anne got a [Bubble Tea](#). We also picked up two ready-to-eat BBQ chicken breasts from the [North Market Poultry & Game](#) counter. They were \$8 together, which is more expensive than if we were to buy them uncooked, but neither of us were really in the mood for cooking chicken. The guy also threw in several mini wings and drumsticks too, which made for a nice pre-dinner snack.

Lastly, we stopped by the [Greener Grocer](#) to pick up a few items. I grabbed some asparagus to make later this week and Anne got some locally grown cherries and a few other fruits.

Later in the evening, we decided to grill the eggplant and boil the potatoes to go with the re-heated chicken. I always love looking at the great professional food photography at [ColumbusFoodie.com](#), [Sopressata](#), [RestaurantWidow.com](#), and all of the other wonderful local food blogs, so I decided to take some photos of what we made to post here. The results were a bit lackluster since our dining room lighting isn't very bright, and our meal was actually somewhat colorless to begin with:



I will say that it turned out great though. We only used some of the veggies, so all in all this locally-grown dinner prepared from North Market ingredients only ran us \$10 total. The North Market is more commonly known as a high-end specialty grocer, but it's actually fairly easy to shop there cheaply too.

Bonus!

Anne decided to whip up a quick dessert of fresh local cherries from the market, Cool Whip, and a large chunk of Snickerdoodle from [Pattycake](#) that I purchased the day before. Delicious! And a little bit more photogenic too:



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<http://www.columbusunderground.com> - A dynamic discussion about life in Columbus, Ohio.

rider

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Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« [Reply #6](#) on: April 23, 2009, 02:16:51 PM »

Farmers' market to open Downtown on May 19

Thursday, April 23, 2009 - 6:39 AM

The Columbus Dispatch

Pearl Market, the Downtown market for farmers and merchants, will reopen in Pearl and Lynn alleys on May 19. "Customer and vendor demand" prompted the market to open a month early this year, the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District said in a news release. The market will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday through October. It will feature an average of 40 vendors who sell everything from fresh vegetables and plants to handcrafted jewelry.

<http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2009/04/23/brfarmer.html?sid=101>

« Last Edit: September 09, 2009, 01:28:56 PM by rider »

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WalkerEvans

629'-Rhodes State Tower



Offline

Posts: 628



Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« [Reply #7](#) on: April 24, 2009, 02:28:31 AM »

Looking forward to some of that delicious gretna grilling cheese from Blue Jacket Dairy. 😊

ColumbusUndergroun

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Posts: 2816

**Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets**

« Reply #8 on: May 19, 2009, 12:25:46 PM »

Pearl Market opens Tuesday**Business First of Columbus****Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 9:03am EDT**

City officials, including Mayor Michael Coleman, are scheduled to gather Tuesday morning to mark the return of an increasingly popular seasonal farmers' market tucked away on Pearl Alley downtown. The fifth season of the Pearl Market is set to open a month earlier than usual, the city said, to meet customer and vendor demand. The market stretches through the alley that connects Broad and Gay streets, and includes merchants that sell produce, baked goods and other foods as well as clothing and crafts.

<http://columbus.bizjournals.com/columbus/stories/2009/05/18/daily11.html?surround=lfm>

« Last Edit: September 09, 2009, 01:11:22 AM by rider »

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**Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets**

« Reply #9 on: May 19, 2009, 08:52:36 PM »

Downtown farmers market opens new season

Neat one minute video on the opening day of the Pearl Alley Market. Looks like today's great weather brought out a big crowd.

VIDEO: http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/multimedia/video/index.html?maven_playerId=dispatchvideo&maven_referralObject=5175199

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**Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets**

« Reply #10 on: June 07, 2009, 11:42:05 AM »

Market time: Customers anticipate crops grown by area farmers**Wednesday, June 3, 2009****By Robin Davis, The Columbus Dispatch**

The two hottest words in food today? Local and seasonal. Food bought from farm markets and pick-your-own farms engages consumers in both. For many people, eating locally grown produce provides a prime reason for patronizing farm markets.

Read more at

<http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/food/stories/2009/06/03/market.htm>

And a neat interactive map of farmers' markets located in central Ohio: FARMERS MARKETS MAP

« Last Edit: September 09, 2009, 11:21:30 AM by rider »

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rider

Global Moderator



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Posts: 2816



Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« Reply #11 on: June 07, 2009, 11:45:22 AM »

Nice little video about the Pearl Market near Broad and High in downtown Columbus from the group running it at <http://www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket/>.



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rider

Global Moderator



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Posts: 2816



Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« Reply #12 on: July 03, 2009, 11:08:10 PM »

**Farmers, produce begin weekly visits to UA, Grandview
Farmers markets will set up each Wednesday in Upper Arlington and every Saturday in Grandview**

**By DONAVON CAMPBELL, COLUMBUS LOCAL NEWS
Published: Monday, June 29, 2009 - 4:37 PM EDT**



The Pearl Alley Growers' Association is set for another season of bringing truly fresh produce and goods to market in Grandview and Upper Arlington. Beginning Wednesday, July 8, the growers' association will set up shop from 4 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday at the Mallway on Arlington Avenue.

The growers' association will begin its weekly Saturday visits to Grandview Avenue at Second Avenue shortly thereafter from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 11. The markets run through the end of October in Upper Arlington and the end of September in Grandview Heights.

For more information on the Pearl Alley Growers' Association and when and where you can find their farmers markets, visit the Web site www.pearlalleygrowers.com.

Read more at http://www.columbuslocalnews.com/articles/2009/07/03/tri-village_news/news/tvalltvuaf_20090629_1048am_1.txt

« Last Edit: September 08, 2009, 08:36:22 PM by rider »

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rider

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Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« Reply #13 on: September 22, 2009, 07:23:21 PM »

From <http://www.columbusunderground.com/pearl-market-to-run-through-the-winter->

Posts: 2816

months



Pearl Market to Run Through The Winter Months

The seasonal Pearl Market that takes place Downtown every summer is expanding to run an indoor Winter Market starting in November. The new market will be held inside the building located at 20 East Broad Street, next to Pearl Alley where the summer market takes place. The same hours of operation will be in effect: Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30am through 2:00pm. The Winter Market will run from November 3rd to February 26th, 2010.

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rider

Global Moderator


 Online

Posts: 2816



Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« Reply #14 on: February 27, 2010, 06:55:20 PM »

North Market on rising trend

Now self-sustaining, the market thrives on blend of mom-and-pop businesses focusing on local food

Monday, February 15, 2010 - 2:58 AM

By Robert Vitale, The Columbus Dispatch

In the year Columbus opened a glitzy Downtown shopping mall, officials also decided to move the city's last surviving public market from an old metal shed into an even older vacant warehouse. Two decades later, the City Center Mall and high-end retailers such as Marshall Field's and Godiva are long gone. The marble and chrome were hauled away months ago. Bulldozers are scooping up what's left of its shell.

About a mile away, the North Market enters its 138th year, riding the crest of a national trend toward locally grown, locally produced food. It's also enjoying perhaps its most solid financial outlook ever. An enterprise that once feared getting crowded out by a new convention center, new arena and other development in and around the Short North has become a big attraction on its own, drawing well over 1 million visitors a year.

Full article at

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/02/15/North_Market.ART_15-10_A1_78GJACO.html?sid=101

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rider

Global Moderator


 Online

Posts: 2816



Re: Columbus: Downtown Farmers' Markets

« Reply #15 on: February 27, 2010, 07:14:22 PM »

Indoor farmers

Pearl Alley's winter market has promising start in first season

Friday, February 26, 2010 - 2:46 AM

By Tracy Turner, The Columbus Dispatch

Downtown's winter Pearl Market, housed since November in a former bank at 20 E. Broad St., ends its initial, experimental season today. Its sponsors are calling it a success and hope it will continue long after the two-year operating grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is depleted. The market has generated more consumer

traffic than its organizers expected, said Adam Schroeder, who manages the market.

"The market had spaces for 30 vendors, and all the spaces were filled, and there was a waiting list of vendors who wanted to rent space," Schroeder said. "November and December really exceeded our expectations in terms of the number of people who came out to shop the market." The winter market was in the building right next door to Pearl Alley, where the outdoor farmers' market is held from May to October.

The Downtown market is run by Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, a nonprofit group run by Downtown businesses. The winter market was awarded a \$61,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Promotion program, which allowed it to operate this year and next. Schroeder said that, based on the success of the market, it will return next winter. However, it will have to find a new home because its building is to be turned into a hotel, Hotel Indigo.

Full article at

<http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2010/02/26/indoor-farmers.html?sid=101>

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"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

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Off the Rack: Local shopping briefs

Thursday, October 29, 2009 6:00 AM
By Brittany Kress

Outside in

Maybe the weather has you forgetting it's already nearly November. And if you head down to the Pearl Market on Tuesday, as usual, you'll be pleasantly surprised to find that although the market is no longer sprawling across the sidewalk, it has moved to an indoor space nearby.

Brittany Kress keeps up on the latest in local retail so you don't have to. For shopping news and product giveaways, click to the [Window Shopping blog](#).

Pearl Market is aiming to operate year-round, with its new winter version running Nov. 3 through Feb. 26 at 20 E. Broad Street, in a first-floor space that looks out to the market's usual street corner.

Winter Pearl Market will follow the same schedule as its warm-weather counterpart: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

The indoor market includes a mix of returning and new vendors with a heavier focus on the handmade and home-cooked, although canned meats, pickled vegetables and some warm-weather produce made possible through a hydroponic farm will be available.

Pump up the positivity

Owen Etti credits unemployment for spurring his entrepreneurial dreams. He might never have created his clothing line, Hiphopbonics, if he hadn't lost his sales and marketing job.

He used his newfound free time to carefully research the retail clothing industry and the Columbus market. And now he's released a selection of men's tees and caps emblazoned with the brand name, an idea he first thought of in the '90s.

He has plans to expand, with offerings like sweats, jeans, jackets and women's clothing. It's all meant to drum up interest in Hiphopbonics as a movement that encourages creativity and positivity, Etti said.

"I think positive vibes can make money, just as much as the negative stuff," he said. "You're going to see vivid, graphic messages - my thoughts from my personal perspective - that talk about different issues."

To check out the merchandise and place an order, search for Hiphopbionic's Facebook fan page and send a message through the site. Etti might end up hand-delivering your order for now, but he hopes to grow into major distribution throughout the country.

Furniture finds

Two new stores in the Short North will give new life to old furniture.

Funky and Functional opened at 685 N. High St. a few weeks ago, with a grand opening planned for the Nov. 7 Gallery Hop. The focus is on furniture like bed frames, dressers, dining room table sets and couches - all used pieces from varying decades that owner Mark Miller scouts out on his trips to estate sales and auctions.

"The style, in that sense, doesn't really matter to me, just as long as people can use it," Miller said.

To the functional, he adds the funky, including decorative finds like a metal merry-go-round, mirrors and heavily carved religious pieces. Miller also takes items for consignment.

And Old World New Home is opening on Black Friday, Nov. 27, at 1196 N. High St. The store is run by a mother-daughter team who finds and refurbishes vintage and antique furniture with an updated look for today.

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Window Shopping: Winter Pearl Market

Thursday, November 12, 2009 6:00 AM

By **Brittany Kress**

Downtown dwellers and workers can look forward to buying locally grown strawberries this winter. And lettuce, green beans and tomatoes.

Sonie VanScoy is one of many Pearl Market regulars who have moved indoors for the market's cold-weather incarnation, where she'll be selling fresh fruits and vegetables from her hydroponic farm.

Winter Pearl Market opened last week at 20 E. Broad St. and will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays through Feb. 26 - the same schedule shoppers were used to with the outdoor market. As an added bonus, vendors are now accepting credit cards as payment.

Although it's not as easy as browsing the wares on the way to lunch, plenty of shoppers are taking a detour inside the new market to check out some of the best of locally made merchandise, said Kacey



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Campbell, promotions coordinator for the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, which operates the market.

"For here, it was really important for us to make sure we have high-quality offerings," she said.

Winter Pearl Market
20 E. Broad St., Downtown
Web:
downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket

Plenty of the 34 vendors are new to the market, including Nicki Strouss and Silvin Sutters, whose side-by-side booths are bursting with glazed pottery and handmade purses, scarves and hair accessories, respectively. Both applied to join the Winter Pearl Market to get exposure during the holiday season, they said.

With the move to a calmer, quieter indoor space comes increased organization. Vendors are divided into thematic areas: fresh produce and prepared foods, apparel and accessories, and pet-related products.

Take Ten Body Therapy, which got its start as a Pearl Market business and now has a storefront Downtown, has set up shop in the building's old bank vault in the back corner of the market as a massage retreat.

In addition to the vendors, a Holiday Marketplace room is filled with a rotating selection of work from vendors without a booth, like colorful duct-tape flowers and Mikamy Meadows' all-natural body products. Work from local visual artists will cover a wall in the center of the marketplace.

Red Snapper's mobile restaurant will still be dishing out Jamaican food on Pearl Alley at Broad Street, but the other lunch vendors Downtown workers came to rely on are absent. They're replaced by giftable prepared foods like homemade muffins, bread and cupcakes plus chocolate, roasted nuts and olive oils.

Thanks to a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Winter Pearl Market will be back next year, Campbell said.

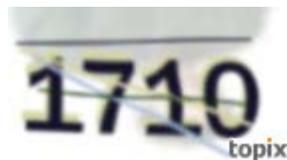
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HOME MESSAGEBOARD EVENTS DINING SHOPPING ART NIGHTLIFE DEVELOPMENT POLITICS TRANSIT SPORTS MUSIC FILM AUDIO VIDEO SUBSCRIBE SUBMIT

Call for Submissions: Pearl Market Artist Showcase

By Emily Swartzlander | November 10, 2009 10:30am | Filed under Art | Comments

The Create Columbus Commission is pleased to announce a call for entries for the Pearl Market Artist Showcase, a public exhibition and sale of work during the bi-weekly indoor Pearl Market at 20 East Broad Street in downtown Columbus.



Ohio visual artists are invited to submit family-friendly, 2-D work for sale and display during the market's public hours, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. More than 2,000 people visit Pearl Market each week, so this is a great way to showcase your work in a different setting. The first installment of the Artist Showcase will run from November - December, when a call for entries will be sent for 2010.

Work will be juried by a panel of Arts and Culture representatives from the Create Columbus Commission. Artists will work with the Commission to hang art work in the space for display the first weekend in November. Sales of work will be handled by Pearl Market staff, who will be on site at all times during public hours. To offset costs Peal Market, part of the nonprofit Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, will collect a 10 percent commission on any work sold.

To be considered for the first installment of the showcase, please e-mail 3 to 5 digital images, along with exact sizes of each piece, an artist bio/statement, and contact information to createcolumbuscommission@columbus.org by Friday, November 13 at 5:00 pm.

More information about the Pearl Market can be found at DowntownColumbus.com.

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This entry was posted on Tuesday, November 10th, 2009 at 10:30 am and is filed under [Art](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS feed](#). You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

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One Response to "Call for Submissions: Pearl Market Artist Showcase"



Coreroc Says: # 1
November 10th, 2009 at 3:00 pm

Recieved this a week or so ago from Lizzless. Looks like a great opportunity to get your work in the public eye.



National Jean Company to Open in Short North
Photo Credit: NationalJeanCompany.com



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Holiday Gift Guide: 20 for \$20

Thursday, November 26, 2009 6:00 AM

Recycled-tin bins, \$12 each

Peabody Papers

1261 Grandview Ave.,
Grandview

614-485-9855

Web: peabodypapers.com

These statement-making containers, made from printed tin leftover from product packaging, would suit a pack rat and earth lover equally. Stuff a surprise gift inside, like one of Peabody's pretty card sets.



Leather wallets, \$10 each

The Market at Serendip

36 N. Liberty St., Powell

614-358-2784

Web:



themarketatserendip.blogspot.com

These locally made, supple leather wallets are a steal. Armando Javier Designs also offers purses and leather cuffs, and you'll find plenty more work from Central Ohio artists at the Powell market, including jewelry, artwork and gifts for baby.

Coffee gift set, \$18

Two Roasting Joes at the Winter Pearl Market

20 E. Broad St., Downtown

740-649-3811

Web: tworoastingjoes.com

Please the coffee lover in your life with a collection of eight blends roasted in Chillicothe. A variety of holiday flavors - Christmas Cookie, Holiday Cheer - are packaged along with several of Two Roasting Joes' bestsellers, like the chocolate-peanut-butter Buckeye.



Keel's Simple Diary, \$15

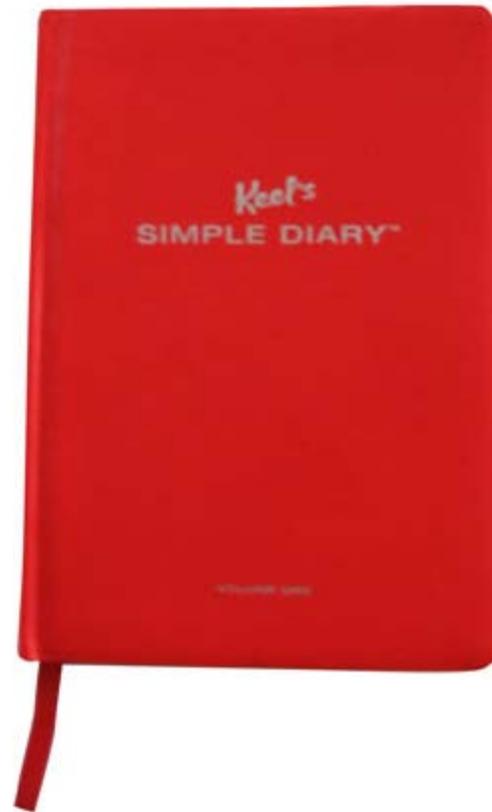
The Wexner Center Store

1871 N. High St., Campus

614-292-1807

Web:
store.wexnercenterstore.com

This diary is unconventional enough to spark the interest of a non-diary user or spice things up for a devotee. Each page includes thought-provoking prompts like "If you had to change your life today, what would you change first? Least?"



Framed flower art, \$10

Bloomsbury Loft
30 W. Olentangy St., Powell
614-781-9479

Web: bloomsburyloft.com

This framed floral motif, handmade by the three women behind Bloomsbury Loft, makes a simple statement. It's especially perfect to have on hand, topped with a bow, in case you get an unexpected gift from a neighbor or co-worker.



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Holiday Gift Guide: Pet Presents

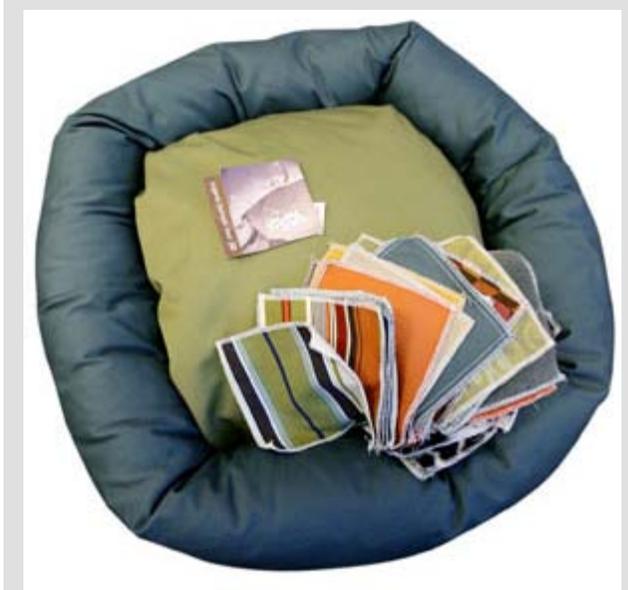
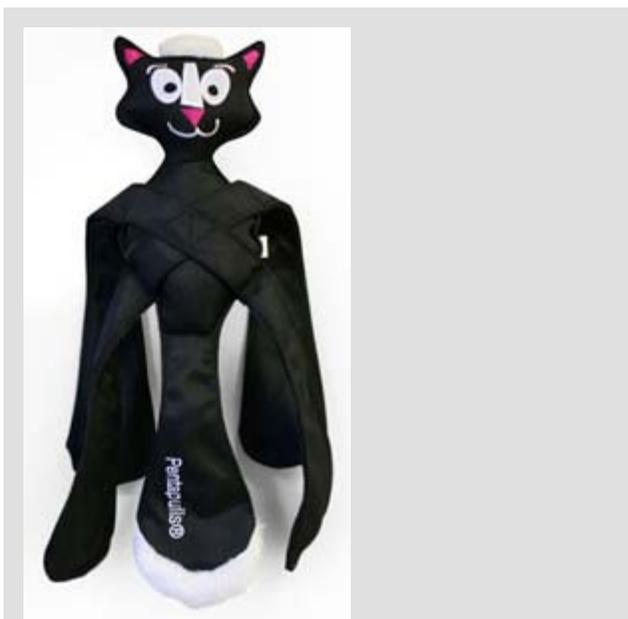
Thursday, November 26, 2009 6:00 AM
By Marguerite Marsh

If your dog or cat has visions of squeaky toys dancing in his head, he's not alone. And you can find things to make your pet's wishes come true at lots of locally owned pet stores.

Posh Pets in the Short North offers locally designed, custom-made holiday dresses for dogs of all sizes, starting at \$40. The Molly Mutt bed duvet (\$23-\$40) allows you to stuff your pet's bed with your old clothes - the stuff sack holds it all in place - so your dog always has you near.

Also on the nice list are: Bite Meez hand puppets (\$12), Smart Cat Peek-a-Prize toy box (\$30), Plush Puppies Santa Hide-a-Toy (\$11-\$16), luggage tags (\$6), and a Hanukkah plush dreidel (\$9). Don't forget a tiara - only \$15.

If you're looking for NFL, NBA or OSU team ware for your pooch (jerseys, collars and leashes), you'll find it at Moochie & Co. at Polaris, Tuttle and Easton malls. Keep your dog warm with OSU fleece PJs (\$25-\$30) and Apex nylon or fleece



Posh Pets
743 N. High St., Short North
614-299-7387
Web: poshpetsboutique.com

jackets (\$30-\$50).

You'll also find T-shirts printed with sassy phrases like "Bitches heart me" (\$22) and "Favorite Grandchild" (\$20). Tuffie toys, like the T-Rexx, are made with double stitching and durable materials (\$16-\$35), and the GoughNuts rubber donuts (\$20-\$28) are nearly indestructible and guaranteed for life.

Moochie & Co.
Multiple locations
Web: moochieandcompany.com
Mutts & Co.
7549 Sawmill Rd., Dublin
614-792-6888
muttsandco.com
The Recycled Retriever
at Winter Pearl Market
20 E. Broad St., Downtown
Web: therecycledretriever.com

If your dog likes to open gifts, Mutts & Co. offers edible holiday wrap (\$6). If not, try Huggle Hounds (\$23) durable tug toys, or the Dog Casino (\$63), which will keep him pulling levers to release treats hidden in chips.

Hoodie fleece PJs (\$16), Up Country holiday collars (\$21), Aroma Paws shampoo and conditioner (\$16) and deodorizing coat spray (\$16) will complete his holiday look. Add a canine cake mix (\$10), bone-shaped cake pan (\$19) or muffin tins (\$25) to round out the wish list.

Recycled Retriever doesn't have a brick-and-mortar store, but you can check out their eco-friendly wares at the Winter Pearl Market Downtown on Tuesdays. Some of the most coveted items include: Polkdog Packabowls (\$17), travel-ready rubber food bowls; Robbie Dawg treats (\$5), four flavors of organic dog treats in a resealable tin; Bumi Floatable Chew Toys (\$10), the toy your dog can pull, flex, throw or stretch; Bungee Hemp Canvas Bone (\$20), earth-friendly elasticized tug toys; and Penta Pulls (\$18), tug toys with a squeaker in each leg.

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Commit To Be Fit: Jan.-Feb. Market Spotlight

Friday, January 8, 2010 11:12 AM

[Print Story](#) | [E-mail Story](#)

It's a new year and many people are making their new year's resolutions. While many resolutions are made and not kept, here is a suggestion for a new year's resolution that can be kept, is easy, fun, and healthy for you and Ohio. Are you ready? Make your new year's resolution a commitment to purchase as much local food as possible. One way to access locally produced foods is to visit a farmers' market in your area. Because the food is produced locally, it is fresh, flavorful, and full of nutrients. This is a great way to help you Commit to Be Fit.

The number of farmers' markets continues to grow throughout the United States and Ohio is no exception. Ohio now has more than 180 farmers markets statewide. And while we typically think of a farmers' market as operational in the summer months, several markets in central Ohio have expanded to include winter markets. While you won't find Ohio sweet corn at a winter market, you can still find fresh local produce such as root vegetables, greens, and many other locally produced goods. As local farmers adopt season extension growing techniques, the variety and availability of fresh local produce will continue to expand. To find a winter market in your area, go to www.ohiofarmersmarkets.osu.edu and explore the listing of winter markets on our website.

January & February Market Highlight:

PEARL MARKET GOES INDOORS FOR THE WINTER!

November 3 - February 26
Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30am - 2pm
20 E. Broad St., First Floor Columbus, OH

Pearl Market farmers sell only what they grow themselves in Ohio and items available during the winter market include: assorted produce such as hydroponic tomatoes, beans, lettuce, cucumber, strawberries, peppers, squash, potatoes, broccoli, lettuce, onions, radishes, beets, spinach, and parsnips. You will also find apples, cider, pastas, baked goods, assorted meat products, cheeses, and more. For more about the Pearl Market Winter Market, go to:

<http://www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket/Indoor-Market>

Written by: *Christie Welch, Farmers' Market Specialist*
The Ohio State University South Centers
welch.183@osu.edu
January 4, 2009

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Culinary Discovery & Misadventures in the Ice Cream Capital of the World (Columbus)

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« PHX Gourmand

----- Pizza Grand Prix V: March 14th, 6:00 PM »

Nothing to do Downtown? Bite this!

Posted by [cmhgourmand](#) on February 25, 2010

There is a trio of hysteric flawed beliefs about Columbus. These mistaken concepts are: Society ends when there are three or more inches of snow on the streets of our fair city, Columbus restaurants can't compete on a national or world level and there is nothing to do downtown. These core beliefs are misleading propaganda that serve to diminish our civic pride. Today I debunk the third myth by sharing some downtown discoveries.

I took the day a day off from working for the man to attend to some [BeerCamp](#) administrative business with the Dispatch and the Division of Police (note: parades are expensive). In between appointments, I found I had two hours to kill on the block bordered by High Street, Broad Street, 3rd and Gay. Nothing to do.....indeed. This is what I did.

Fridays mean the [Pearl Alley Market](#). During this time of year, the market moves inside. Granted there is a limited selection of vegetables: potatoes, potatoes and potatoes but there is plenty of locally produced goodness to buy and sample. Vendors sell meats (fresh, frozen and canned), bread, canned goods, baked goods and sundries. The space also features local art. A few photos below with give you a taste of the place, so check it out winter or summer.

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CMH Gourmand – “a twitter”

From March 4-7, all central Ohio Panera Breads will donate \$.50 from each smoothie sold to Nationwide Children's Hospital - [1 day ago](#)

Pizza Grand Prix V is on March 14th - <http://tiny.cc/E6HYE> This time - homemade pizza contest with prizes. - [3 days ago](#)

Congratulations to Kent Rigsby and Magdiale Wolmark (DragonFly): CMH nominees for the 2010 James Beard Awards. - [1 week ago](#)

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wear bright T-shirts with a pistachio logo. It makes them look like superheroes. And they are! - [2 weeks ago](#)

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A short stroll away on High Street, I spied Mr. Peanut so I decided to pay my first visit to the **The Peanut Shoppe**. The store sells a wide variety of nuts as well as candy and other goodies. The staff are friendly and made sure I had the best deals possible (for nut clusters buy by the pound not by the piece). The walls have several faded clippings about the history of the Peanut Shoppe past and present. The big surprise for me was the mini Mr. Peanut museum with items from one hundred plus years of Mr. Peanut product marketing.





After an hour of browsing and grazing it was time for lunch. I met one of my BeerCamp co-

conspirators, the Amazing Amanda Anderson, at the equally amazing [El Arepazo Latin Grill](#). Although this is one of my favorite places to eat, I rarely dine here due to my non downtown weekday work life and the restaurants exclusive lunchtime hours. Amanda and I were the first through the door at the 11 AM – opening time. We both relished that we would have 10-15 non crowded minutes to enjoy our excellent entrees. Everything El Arepazo offers is wonderful. I typically go with the Columbian platter (plato typical) which is a mix of most of the menu with a fried egg to boot. I was giddy from an already excellent morning so I opted out of my usual and ordered the Cuban sandwich (seen below).



In 2006 I spent a three day weekend researching the best Cuban sandwiches and Media Noche's on Miami's Calle Ocho. My Miami munching made my baseline for the Cuban sandwich scale of amazing. I can say that the EL Arepazo edition earned a 9.99 out of 10.

I am now going to meander a bit with a shout out for Amanda Anderson. I have hosted Pizza Grand Prix's at Wild Goose Creative and I have attended, judged or spoken at many events there. Amanda serves as an air traffic controller for the multitude of things taking off and landing at the space and she has not yet learned to say no so while it keeps

her pace a hyper version of hectic, the end result is a track record of fun food festivities that have no peer in the Midwest.

After lunch, I headed across Broad Street to [Ohio State House Gift Shop](#) for a bottle of [Kinlead Ridge](#) wine (in my opinion the best Ohio produced wine and one of the better wines in the country for the price). You can learn more about the Statehouse gift shop in my June 2009 post. This small shop buried in the basement has a great selection of Ohio wines as well as other hard to find (in Columbus) Ohio foodstuffs including the much ballyhooed [Ballreich's Potato Chips](#) from Tiffin. The staff are knowledgeable about their products – especially the wine. In the non food category, there is a good selection of books about Ohio, many of them are hard to find autographed copies.



That is my story of two unexpected hours of leisure in downtown Columbus. I enjoyed some old favorites and made new discoveries. There were plenty of easy to find parking spaces and

everything was reasonably priced. If I had been able to stay longer I could have gone to Tip Top Kitchen and Cocktails for a drink or several other great restaurants such as Due Amici, Plaintain Cafe, Latitude 41.....

If you believe there is nothing to do, I have nothing more to say to you.

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This entry was posted on February 25, 2010 at 8:06 pm and is filed under [culinary knowledge](#), [markets](#), [restaurants](#). Tagged: [Pearl Alley Market](#), [Pearl Market](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

9 Responses to “Nothing to do Downtown? Bite this!”

1. ***Amanda*** said



February 25, 2010 at 8:55 pm

I approve of this blog post!! 😊 HA!

imagine my surprise when I saw such compliments 😊

And I hope I will learn to say no someday 😊

Now I want cilantro sauce...

[Reply](#)

2. ***Nancy Bentley*** said



February 26, 2010 at 10:21 am

The Statehouse Museum Shop is a great place, and they have been a great supporter of Kinkead Ridge wines since the very beginning; the first vintage they purchased were our first red wines, the 2001 Revelation blend and the 2001 Syrah!

[Reply](#)

3. ***Walker Evans*** said



February 27, 2010 at 9:01 am

Great post! 😊 Love it!

[Reply](#)

4. ***Alexs*** said



February 27, 2010 at 1:03 pm

This is a good example of parachute in vs. crawl. If you were driving through with two hours to kill you'd probably not bother to park and check out a nut shop or unexpected restaurant. On foot, you can snoop everything.

[Reply](#)

5. ***Mike*** said



February 27, 2010 at 1:21 pm

There would be more things to do and places to go downtown if businesses down there didn't keep bankers' hours.

[Reply](#)

6. ***Jared R.*** said



February 27, 2010 at 4:08 pm

I just went to the last day of Pearl Market in the winter this past Friday. I'll miss it so. And don't tell Mike that Tip Top and Dirty Frank's, located in Downtown Columbus, are open until 2 am.

[Reply](#)

7. **Greg said**



March 1, 2010 at 9:41 am

I love the The Peanut Shoppe sign. I wish more from that era were saved. It gives downtown a fun atmosphere.

[Reply](#)

8. **Joe Peffer said**



March 1, 2010 at 4:46 pm

Downtown food options are getting better and better and better. Dinner time carry out options do exist, trust me—though never enough.

(Colombian with an O, Platter)

[Reply](#)

9. **Kacey said**



March 2, 2010 at 3:03 pm

“If you believe there is nothing to do, I have nothing more to say to you.”

Thank you! There are so many wonderful things to do in our city, I get frustrated when people say there’s nothing to do. Great post! You highlighted some gems in our downtown.

[Reply](#)

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« **PHX Gourmand**
Pizza Grand Prix V: March 14th, 6:00 PM »



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HEARINGS

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Organizers want winter version of Pearl Market to become permanent

By RICK ADAMCZAK (Daily Reporter Staff Writer)

February 05, 2010

The first winter edition of the Pearl Market farmers market has been deemed successful as it heads into its final weeks.

"It's exceeded my expectations," said Adam Schroeder, who manages the market for the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District. "Sales have been pretty good."

Last year the market was awarded a \$61,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to operate during the winter for two years.

The grant, which was part of the USDA's farmers market promotion program, allowed the Pearl Market to operate on Tuesdays and Fridays from Nov. 1 until the end of this month, though the market is only open on Fridays in February.

"Some of the vendors were sold out, which is good," said Schroeder. "It shows there's a demand for retail in downtown."

The market is operating on the first floor of 20 E. Broad St. in downtown Columbus, not far from Pearl Alley, where it is located during the summer season.

Schroeder said market organizers would have liked to have had more farmers but the grant was awarded close to the opening of the winter market so they didn't have time to grow any items for sale at the market.

"It was a little late for farmers to plant some of their crops for this time of the year but since then we have gotten some calls from farmers who said they're interested in doing it next year," he said.

When the winter session of the market started there were about 10 or 12 farmers, but now that number had dropped to five or six because farmers had sold out their produce, Schroeder said.

Some of the farm items sold at the market include potatoes, chicken, cucumbers, cheese and bison meat.

Other vendors sell baked goods, jewelry and artwork.

A total of about 20 vendors are participating in the market.

Schroeder said that he hopes the winter version of the market continues after next year when the grant expires.

"We really hope this will be permanent," he said. "The biggest challenge to us is to prove it's successful to our vendors. They need to see steps are being taken."

Another challenge is finding a permanent location for the market.

It's current location is scheduled to be converted into a hotel and renovations are expected to start before next winter, so organizers need to find a new site for next year's winter market, Schroeder said.

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Municipal Court

"We'd like to keep it somewhere near that location since it's near our summer market," he added.

The USDA grant helped fund advertising, staff time and the purchase of an electronic benefits transfer system for Ohio Direction and credit or debit card users.

Customers can visit a booth where their credit card is swiped and in return they receive tokens valued at either \$1 or \$5 each.

The Ohio Direction card is a program of the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program that allows eligible people to receive food subsidies.

Schroeder said the new token system will be used for the summer market, too.

"It has really helped to increase sales. It's been huge for us," he said.

The outdoor Pearl Market, which has been operating since 1992, is scheduled to open May 18 and run through October.



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Indoor farmers

Pearl Alley's winter market has promising start in first season

Friday, February 26, 2010 2:46 AM

BY **TRACY TURNER**
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

It was the buffalo patties that drew Nancy Hamilton to the Pearl Market Downtown this winter. And the buffalo sticks and ribeye steaks - both cuts of meat that the North Side resident and Downtown worker said she's grown to love.

Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch, which sells her favorite products, is 37 miles away in Thornville, but since Hamilton discovered the company's booth at the Pearl Market, she's been a steady customer.

"There's just certain things that you can't easily find locally, and having this market provide them is wonderful," she said.

Downtown's winter Pearl Market, housed since November in a former bank at 20 E. Broad St., ends its initial, experimental season today. Its sponsors are calling it a success and hope it will continue long after the two-year operating grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is depleted.

The market has generated more consumer traffic than its organizers expected, said Adam Schroeder, who manages the market.

Pearl Market offers Ohio farmers and small-business owners the opportunity to sell their wares to a captive Downtown audience, many of whom don't live near places where weekend markets are held, he said.

"The market had spaces for 30 vendors, and all the spaces were filled, and there was a waiting list of vendors who wanted to rent space," Schroeder said. "November and December really exceeded our expectations in terms of the number of people who came out to shop the market." He didn't have numbers available.

The market was held right next door to Pearl Alley, where the outdoor farmers' market is held from May to October. The winter market was open two days a week in its first three months and cut back to one day a week this month, as a result of the weather and slower consumer traffic, he said.

The goal of the winter market, Schroeder said, is not only to provide Downtown workers access to fresh foods and handcrafted products, but also to serve as a business incubator to show that Downtown can support more retail businesses.



COURTNEY HERGESHEIMER | DISPATCH

Grandma's Kettle Corn is one of the 30 vendors at the experimental Pearl Alley winter market, which ends today. The market had a waiting list for vendor space and drew more foot traffic than expected, its manager said. The market will be back next winter under a two-year federal grant.



THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

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"We like to think of the market as bringing some retail therapy to Downtown two days a week," he said. "With the winter market, we can now do that nine months a year."

The new indoor site was also a boon to some farmers who say they jumped at the chance to sell produce in the winter.

This is significant for many farmers in a time of year when they wouldn't have much opportunity for direct sales.

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The Downtown market is run by Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, a nonprofit group run by Downtown businesses. The E. Broad Street space had been occupied by the Downtown Development Resource Center, an office that has moved to the former Lazarus building on S. High Street.

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Schroeder said that, based on the success of the market, it will return next winter. However, it will have to find a new home because its site is to be turned into a hotel, Hotel Indigo.

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Schroeder said the market's regular season will begin May 18 on Tuesdays and Fridays and will continue at its current outdoor location. The market already has 35 applicants for its 60 vendor spaces, he said.

"We appreciate the customers that have joined us indoors," Schroeder said. "We've had fun doing it, have learned a lot and want to do it even bigger next year."

tturner@dispatch.com

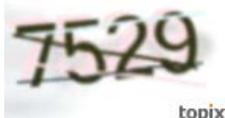
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Winter market in Columbus off to promising start

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by *The Associated Press*
Mar 1, 2010 9:52 am ET

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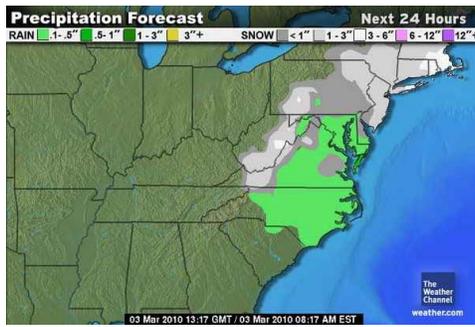
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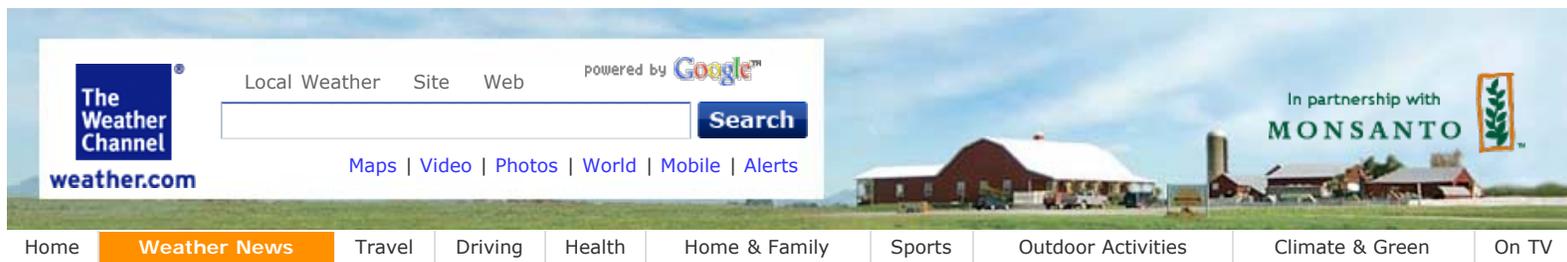
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By Tracy Turner, The Associated Press

4:41 PM Saturday, February 27, 2010

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COLUMBUS, Ohio — It was the buffalo patties that drew Nancy Hamilton to the Pearl Market Downtown this winter. And the buffalo sticks and ribeye steaks — both cuts of meat that the Columbus resident and downtown worker said she's grown to love.

Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch, which sells her favorite products, is 37 miles away in Thornville, but since Hamilton discovered the company's booth at the Pearl Market, she's been a steady customer.

"There's just certain things that you can't easily find locally, and having this market provide them is wonderful," she said.

Downtown's winter Pearl Market, housed since November in a former bank, ended its initial, experimental season Friday. Its sponsors are calling it a success and hope it will continue long after the two-year operating grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is depleted.

The market has generated more consumer traffic than its organizers expected, said Adam Schroeder, who manages the market.

Pearl Market offers Ohio farmers and small-business owners the opportunity to sell their wares to a captive downtown audience, many of whom don't live near places where weekend markets are held, he said.

"The market had spaces for 30 vendors, and all the spaces were filled, and there was a waiting list of vendors who wanted to rent space," Schroeder said. "November and December really exceeded our expectations in terms of the number of people who came out to shop the market." He didn't have numbers available.

The market was held right next door to Pearl Alley, where the outdoor farmers' market is held from May to October.

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The winter market was open two days a week in its first three months and cut back to one day a week this month, as a result of the weather and slower consumer traffic, he said.

The goal of the winter market, Schroeder said, is not only to provide downtown workers access to fresh foods and handcrafted products, but also to serve as a business incubator to show that downtown can support more retail businesses.

"We like to think of the market as bringing some retail therapy to downtown two days a week," he said. "With the winter market, we can now do that nine months a year."

The new indoor site was also a boon to some farmers who say they jumped at the chance to sell produce in the winter.

This is significant for many farmers in a time of year when they wouldn't have much opportunity for direct sales.

Marcia Bergefurd, of Bergefurd's Farm Market&Green House in Wilmington, was among the first vendors to sign up for the winter market. Bergefurd, who also participates in the summer market, said sales have been brisk for her fall squash, red beets, radishes, potatoes, onions, lettuce, cabbage and eggs.

"Normally, our selling season would have ended in October," Bergefurd said as she wrapped a customer's purchase of potatoes. "We've had many repeat customers from the summer market, and many new customers who say they'll come back during our summer market."

Ohio has about 180 farmers' markets, said Kaleigh Frazier, a spokeswoman with the state Department of Agriculture, but only a few operate in the winter.

Frazier said the markets are growing in popularity among vendors and consumers.

"Ohio is following a national trend with the increase in popularity of the farmers' markets because they give consumers a chance to build relations with farmers and producers and to know exactly where their food comes from," she said.

The downtown market is run by Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, a nonprofit group run by downtown businesses. The site had been occupied by the Downtown Development Resource Center, an office that has moved to a former Lazarus building.

The winter market was awarded a \$61,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Promotion program, which allowed it to operate this year and next.

Schroeder said that, based on the success of the market, it will return next winter. However, it will have to find a new home because its site is to be turned into a hotel, Hotel Indigo.

He said the winter market will apply for more grants to continue to operate after next year, but it also hopes to become self-sustaining.

Schroeder said the market's regular season will begin May 18 on Tuesdays and Fridays and will continue at its current outdoor location. The market already has 35 applicants for

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its 60 vendor spaces, he said.

"We appreciate the customers that have joined us indoors," Schroeder said. "We've had fun doing it, have learned a lot and want to do it even bigger next year."

Information from: The Columbus Dispatch,
<http://www.dispatch.com>

February 27, 2010 09:35 PM EST

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- Sunday, November 7
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- Wednesday, November 1
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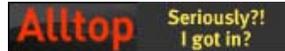


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FEW GO TO MARKET

Indoor venue hasn't been drawing crowds to Downtown vendors

Thursday, January 6, 2011 02:50 AM

BY [JEN MONROE](#)

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The caramel-filled spice cakes and the chocolate-dipped pears would have been at home in a window display on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

But they were offered for sale in Columbus, displayed on a folding table in a building that sits empty five days a week.

Juli-Anne Michel's business, the Little Fruit Shop, so far is a fledgling effort that got its start in November when the Downtown Pearl Market opened its second indoor season.

"I would very much like to turn this into a full-time job," said Michel, who bakes after her night shift at Nationwide Children's Hospital ends and before her children wake up.

Michel is one of 16 vendors who sell either food or merchandise at the Winter Pearl Market.

It's the second year and second location, 33 N. 3rd St., for the indoor market that's open from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

"I'm starting to get a lot of repeat customers," Michel said. "The first couple of weeks were kind of slow, but now that people know I'm here, I'm getting a lot more business."

Other vendors are less pleased with the customer turnout.

"I do appreciate the warm inside," said Luzmila Males who sells knitwear and calls herself the Sweater Lady. "But maybe customers do not agree, because they're not willing to come in that often."

Males sells her goods both at the indoor and the outdoor versions of the Pearl Market. She said it's a good idea to be open year-round but would like to see improvements that will attract more business.

"Customers definitely like handmade crafts and the fresh-made food, so I don't know what we need here. Maybe more signage or more advertisements," she said.

Adam Schroeder, the general manager of Pearl Market, said the business meets his expectations.

"It's a bit of a shock, I think, for vendors when they go from the success of the outdoor market into the winter



KYLE ROBERTSON | DISPATCH

Business is slow on a Tuesday afternoon at the Winter Pearl Market Downtown. The market is open two days a week through Feb. 25.



THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH



KYLE ROBERTSON | DISPATCH

Doretha Berry of Columbus looks at a hat at Luzmila Males' Sweater Lady table at

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market, because it is only a 2-year-old market where we're slowly building it," Schroeder said. "I firmly believe those numbers will grow."

The indoor selling season is being called an experiment by Cleve Ricksecker, the executive director of Capital Crossroads, which oversees the market. The private group focuses on the safety, cleanliness and commercial viability of Downtown.

"We had heard many of the (outdoor) Pearl Market customers and vendors saying, 'Why don't we have this during the winter?' So we thought we'll try it," Ricksecker said.

A two-year, \$61,229 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture helped make the experiment a low-risk decision. The money, among other things, helped pay to staff and promote the market. Vendor fees paid for the rent.

The test-run is coming to a close, because this is the last year for the grant. Organizers will decide whether the sales warrant continuing the winter market after it closes on Feb.25.

"I'd love to have a space that would provide year-round retailing for people who don't want to lease their own storefront, the classic example being the North Market," Ricksecker said. "But we don't know if this concept works for Downtown."

The board of the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District has the ultimate decision. Vendors are currently bringing in half of the revenue needed to cover the operating costs. Ricksecker said a 50percent subsidy is most likely enough to keep the market open year-round.

"Where it becomes a little bit more problematic is if (the board) feels like they're throwing good money after bad, and there's no support for something."

Ricksecker is optimistic about the market and said he'd eventually like to see Lynn and Pearl alleys turned into a retail haven for dozens of small shops.

"Lynn and Pearl alleys are among the sexiest places in central Ohio - they're our piece of Paris," Ricksecker said.

"If L.A. can do it, surely Columbus can do it."

rcarter@dispatch.com

the Winter Pearl Market. Males would like to see improvements to attract more business.

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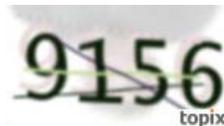
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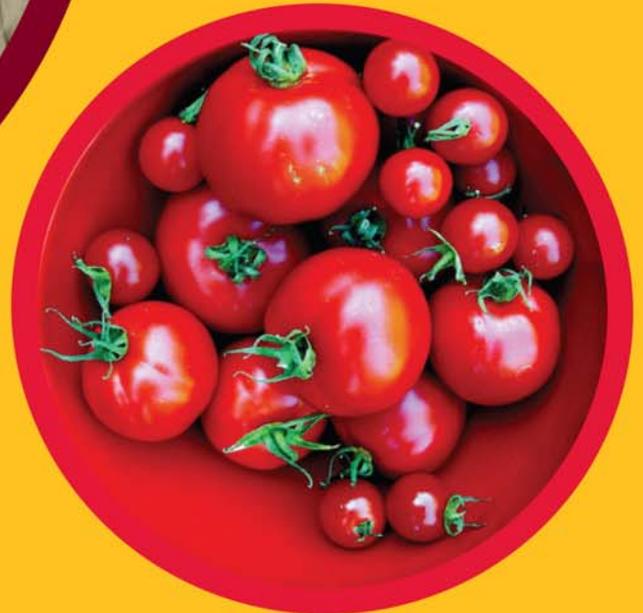
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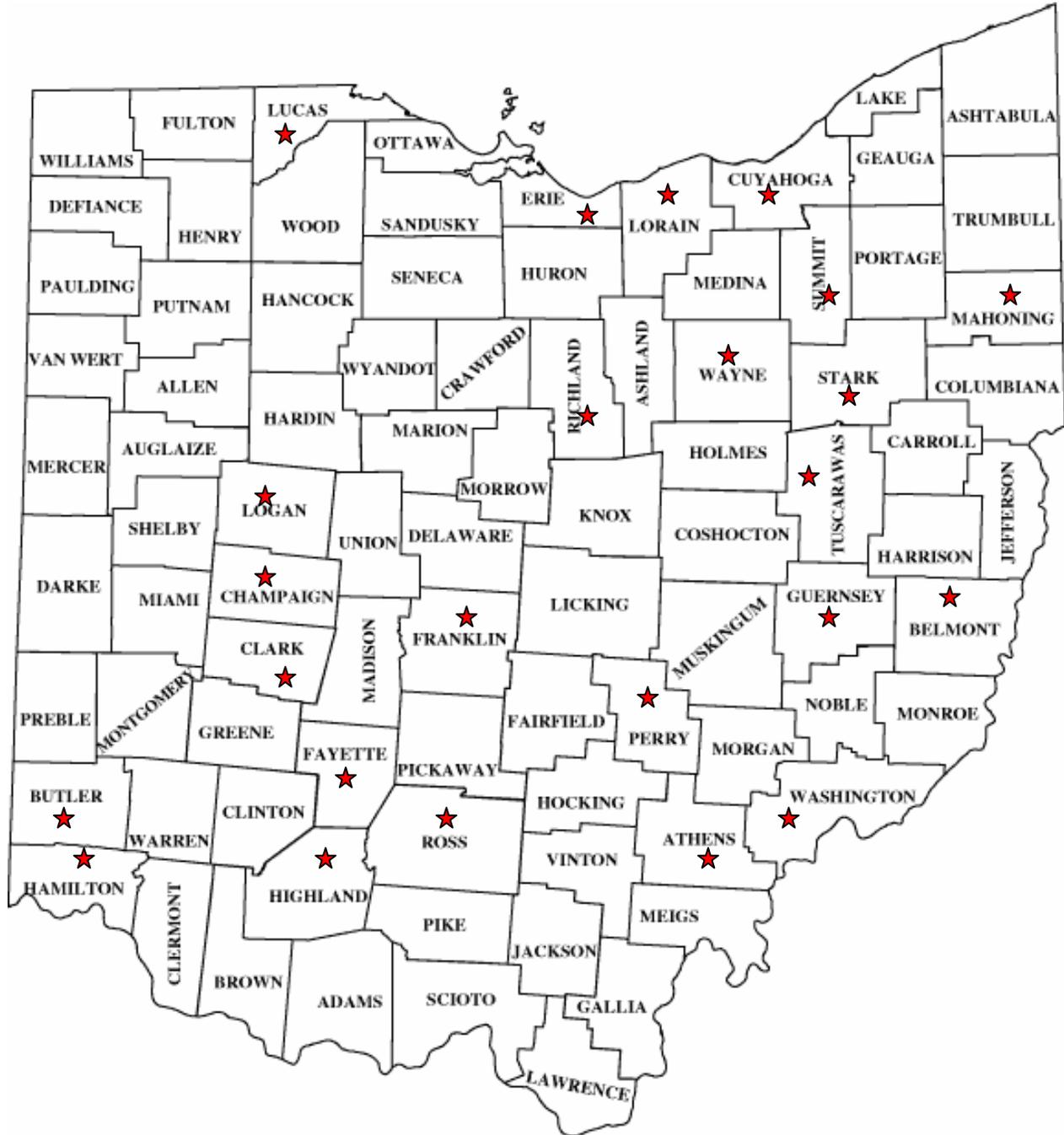
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2010 Ohio EBT Farmers' Market Participants

(alphabetized by county)

Athens County

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Athens Farmers' Market

1000 East Side Street
Athens, Ohio 45701
www.athensfarmersmarket.org
January 1 – December 31
Saturday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (year round)
Wednesday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (April – November)
(fresh fruits & vegetables and much more!)

Belmont County

[Return to Index](#)

Ohio Valley Farmers' Market

32nd Street
Bellaire, Ohio 43906
www.ovfarmersmarket.org
Saturdays 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon (June 12 – October 30)
Tuesdays 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (June 15 – September 28)
(fresh fruits & vegetable, herbs, and much more!)

Butler County

[Return to Index](#)

Oxford Farmers' Market Uptown
Association

Main Street & Church Street
Oxford, Ohio 45013
www.oxfordfarmersmarket.com
1st Saturday in May until Saturday before Thanksgiving in
November
Saturday 7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Champaign County

[Return to Index](#)

Champaign County Farmers'
Market

Locust Street between Market Street & Water Street
Urbana, Ohio 43078
May 23 – October
Saturdays 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, meats, nuts and much more!)

Clark County

[Return to Index](#)

Springfield Farmers' Market

Fountain Avenue, Downtown Springfield next to Heritage
Center
Springfield, Ohio 45502
www.springfieldfarmersmarket.org
June 5 – Labor Day
Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, meat, eggs, and much more!)

Cuyahoga County

[Return to Index](#)

Coit Road Farmers' Market

East Cleveland Farmers' Market Preservation Society
15000 Woodworth Road
East Cleveland, Ohio 44110
www.coitmarket.org
Monday 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (June – October)
Wednesday 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (April – November)
Saturday 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Open All Year!)
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Kamm's Corner Farmers' Market

Municipal parking lot at West 168th Street and Lorain Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44111
<http://www.kammscorners.com/farmersmarket.html>
June 6th – October 31st
Sunday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, bakery, and much more!)

North Union Farmers' Market

Site 1: **Cleveland Clinic**
Carnegie Avenue & East 100th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44106
June 2 – October 6, 2010
Wednesday 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Site 2: **Lakewood**
15300 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
June 2 – September 29, 2010
Wednesday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
<http://www.northunionfarmersmarket.org/>
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Tremont Farmers' Market

West 14th Street / Lincoln Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
www.tremontfarmersmarket.com
May 4th – October 26th
Tuesday 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Warszawa Farmers' Market

Dan Kane Park, at Corner of Kenyon Ave & East 65th St
Cleveland, Ohio 44105
www.slavicvillage.org/farmersmarket
June 7 – October 25th
Monday 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)



Erie County[Return to Index](#)

Vermilion Local Market

Victory Park (corner of Main & Ohio Streets)
Vermilion, Ohio 44089
<http://vermilionlocalmarket.com/page1.aspx>
Mid July thru August
Saturday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, meat, and much more!)

Fayette County[Return to Index](#)

Fayette County Farmer's Market

The parking lot on corner of East St and S. Main St
Washington Courthouse, Ohio 43160
June thru August
Saturdays 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, meat, and much more!)

Franklin County[Return to Index](#)

Columbus Public Health

240 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.publichealth.columbus.gov
July 29, August 05 & 12
Thursday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Nationwide Children's Hospital
Farmers Market

574 South 18th Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205
July 19th, Aug 16th, Sept 13th, & Oct 4th.
Monday 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

North Market Farmers' Market

59 Spruce Street, East Patio
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.northmarket.com
April – November
Saturday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Southpointe Farmers' Market

3459 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43207
www.shopsouthpointe.com
June 4 – September 24
Friday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
(fresh fruits and vegetables, and much more!)

Franklin County (cont.)	Return to Index
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Pearl Market Farmers' Market	Pearl Alley (Next to Rhodes State Office Tower, near corner of Broad St. and High St.) Columbus, Ohio 43215 www.downtowncolumbus.com/pearlmarket May 18 – October 19 (in Alley) November – April (in building beside alley) Tuesday & Friday, 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM <i>(fresh fruits and vegetable, and much more!)</i>
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Guernsey County	Return to Index
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Guernsey County Farmers' Market	627 Wheeling Avenue Cambridge, Ohio 43725 www.guernseycountyfarmersmarket.com May 7 – October 29 Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM <i>(fresh fruits & vegetables, meats, and much more!)</i>
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Hamilton County	Return to Index
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Corporation of Findlay Market	1801 Race Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 www.findlaymarket.org April 1 – November 30 Saturday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM <i>(fresh fruits & vegetables, meats, and much more!)</i>
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Wyoming Farmers' Market	522 Wyoming Avenue Wyoming, Ohio 45215 www.wyomingfarmersmarket.net May thru October Tuesday 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM <i>(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)</i>
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Highland County	Return to Index
-----------------	-----------------

Greenfield Farmers' Market	1300 Jefferson Street Greenfield, Ohio 45123 May 27 – September 2 Wednesday 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM <i>(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)</i>
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Logan County

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Logan County Farmers' Market | Detroit & Chillicothe Parking Lot
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311
May – October
Saturday 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Lorain County

[Return to Index](#)

Oberlin Farmers' Market | 69 South Main Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
(website under construction)
May – thru October
Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, meats, and much more!)

Vermilion Local Market | Victory Park (corner of Main & Ohio Streets)
Vermilion, Ohio 44089
<http://vermilionlocalmarket.com/page1.aspx>
July 10, 17, 24, 31 August 7, 14, 21, 28
Saturday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, meat, and much more!)

Lucas County

[Return to Index](#)

Toledo Farmers' Market | 525 Market Street
Toledo, Ohio 43602
www.toledofarmersmarket.org
January 2 – December 25
Saturday 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Downtown Market)
Wednesday 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Westgate Market)
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Mahoning County

[Return to Index](#)

Northside Farmers' Market | Market Street at Federal Plaza in Downtown, *or*
Elm St & Illinois Ave (across from Wick Park)
Youngstown, Ohio 44505
July – September
Tuesday 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM (Downtown)
Saturday 9:00 AM – 12:00PM (Elm Street)
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Perry County Return to Index

Perry County Farmers' Market
Cooperative – New Lexington

100 Brown Street (Block of Brown and Main Street)
New Lexington, Ohio 43764
June 1 thru End of October
Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Perry County Farmers' Market
Cooperative – Somerset

1 Public Square
Somerset, Ohio 43783
June 1 thru End of October
Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Richland County Return to Index

Carrousel District Farmers' Market

West Fourth Street, between Main and Walnut in downtown
Mansfield
Mansfield, Ohio 44902
www.downtownmansfield.com
May 28 – October 1
Fridays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Ross County Return to Index

Chillicothe Farmers' Market

475 Western Avenue
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
www.chillicothefarmersmarket.org
May – thru October
Saturdays 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
(fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, & much more!)

Stark County Return to Index

Alliance Farmers' Market

Corner of East Main Street and Mechanic Avenue
Alliance, Ohio 44601
www.alliancefarmersmarket.com
June 19 – October 16
Saturday 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)



Summit County

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Countryside Farmers' Market

Site 1: 4040 Riverview Road
 Peninsula, Ohio 44264
 May 15 – October 30
 Saturday 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Site 2: 714 North Portage Path
 Akron, Ohio 44303
 June 3 – September 23
 Thursday 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

www.cvcountryside.org

(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Tuscarawas County

[Return to Index](#)Tuscarawas Valley Family
Farmers' Market

259 S. Tuscarawas Avenue
 Dover, Ohio 44622

www.tvffm.org

June 2 – October 27

Wednesday 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

(fresh fruits & vegetables, and much more!)

Washington County

[Return to Index](#)

Fresh Market at Armory Square

241 Front Street in Historic Downtown Marietta
 Marietta, Ohio 45750

May – October

Tuesdays 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

(fresh fruits & vegetables, eggs, meat and much more!)

River City Farmers' Market

922 Front Street
 Marietta, Ohio 45750

www.rivercityfarmersmarket.org

January – March, Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

April – December, Saturday 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

(fresh fruit & vegetable, and much more!)

Wayne County

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Local Roots Market & Café

140 South Walnut St
 Wooster, Ohio 44691

www.localrootswooster.com

January, 2010 – December, 2010

Fridays 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Saturdays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

(fresh fruits & vegetables, eggs, meat and much more!)



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Posted on June 23, 2011 by Lyndsey Teter

It's Saturday morning at your local farmer's market: Rows of sun-kissed organic farmers peddle baskets full of fresh veggies, honey and pies. Customers from Worthington or Clintonville funnel through the market, picking up locally grown pesticide-free strawberries.

What's been missing from the scene-until recently-is the 207,940 low-income residents of Franklin County with about \$147 burning holes in their pockets, looking for a decent place to spend their food dollars.



Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is teaming with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to connect low-income families with local farmers. Fifty-two farmers markets around the state-including seven in Franklin County-have agreed to accept Ohio's New Direction card, which distributes payments from federal food assistance programs like a debit or credit card.

"Low-income shoppers gain better access to nutritious, locally grown food," said ODJFS spokesman Ben Johnson. "The markets and farmers benefit from increased business and exposure to a diverse customer base within their communities."

Thanks to economic conditions, the ranks of the government-assisted are growing. This year in Ohio, there are 1.8 million households near the poverty level. The new program provides this group, which has notoriously limited access to fresh food, a new shopping option and offers farmers a broader customer base. Letters went out to recipients earlier this year to let them know about the option.

There's a huge amount of federal food dollars available in Ohio, said Laura Zimmerman, manager of the Clintonville Farmers Market.

"A very small percentage go to farmer's markets, and yet, that's a place where people can get really wonderful food."

Some farmers speculate that markets might not be interested in broadening their customer base-at

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least socio-economically.

"Most of our customers are middle- to high-income earners," said Howard Crum, a strawberry farmer from Marion who sells at local markets and serves as president for the Pearl Alley Grower's Association, which runs a handful of markets in the region.

In fact, most market directors lure farmers to their strip of land along High or Broad streets with the assumption that it is overrun with disposable income, he said. And anyway, "Markets might not be the place to go if you are on a tight budget-grocery stores might be their best bet."

Smaller-scale producers have difficulty competing with large grocery store chains that have the means to ship produce in from all over the globe, Crum said. His products are fresher and maybe even healthier, but "by the time you figure in the costs of gas, insurance, booth rentals," and other expenses required for the homegrown "roadshow," it's tough to compete.

Zimmerman, manager of the Clintonville Farmer's Market, couldn't disagree more.

"The farmers market is a wonderful place to buy food if you're pinching pennies," she said.

"The food sold is extremely fresh, and lasts a very long time because it's just been picked, and it's nutrient-dense, so you are getting a lot of bang for your buck," she said.

Clintonville is one of seven markets in Franklin County that is accepting the Ohio Direction Card. Others include markets in Dublin, the Columbus Public Health building, Easton, the Wex, Nationwide Children's Hospital, North Market and Pearl Market.

Missing thus far is community markets in Worthington, Bexley Upper Arlington and Grandview. Market managers could not be reached for comment.

Crum's organization used to run markets in Bexley and Grandview, but both have been taken over by those individual communities, he said.

"People in suburbs like to have control over their communities," he said. "They're not as open to outsiders."

The ODJFS is not bothered by the missing names on Franklin County's roster.

"Our goal obviously is to get as many to participate as possible, but we understand if, for whatever reason, certain markets might not be interested," said the ODJFS's Johnson.

"We decided to participate because there is a huge amount of dollars available in Ohio for food," and "we want to get more of (farmers') good food in the hands of people who have the Ohio Directional Card," Zimmerman said.

People who normally take their assistance money to grocery stores will find added value in buying their food from the guy or gal who produced it:

"They're supporting local farmers," she said.

But here's one that might hit home for the county's struggling families:

"They can find high quality food-and they can also get tips on how to prepare it," she said. Farmers, presumably unlike those silent bag boys, are more than happy to share quick, low-cost ways to prepare their ingredients.

"It's a mutually beneficial arrangement," she said.

If anything, it will at least make those upper- and middle-class shoppers feel a bit warm and fuzzy.

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Downtown Matters: Pearl Market Heats Up Downtown Retail

Once again this year, the Capital Crossroads Market staff has put together a Marketplace where customers can shop a variety of goods from vendors such as Sweet Thing Gourmet, IKC Designs, The Olive Orchard and more. The Marketplace offers visitors a unique shopping experience for the holidays. Shoppers can also continue to use their credit cards or Ohio Directions Card to make purchases, a service which was test run at last winter's Market and utilized so successfully at the summer Market this year.

READ MORE: <http://www.downtowncolumbus.com/rightnow/2010/12/downtown-matters-pearl-market-heats-up-downtown-retail/>

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Winter Pearl Market doing well, but future is uncertain

RICK ADAMCZAK | Daily Reporter

Published: 12/08/2010



The second year of the winter version of Pearl Market is well underway, but whether there will be a third edition next winter is yet to be determined. Last year the downtown Columbus farmers market was awarded a \$61,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to operate during the winter for two years.

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