

Questions April 16, 2014

Q. What is going on out at the Farmers Market? What are you building?

A. We have started building a third shed which will have 23 new spaces. We hope to have it ready by opening day of June 7 but of course it depends on the weather between now and then. It is truly amazing how much our market has grown since the days in the courthouse parking lot when we were thrilled to have 20 vendors!

Q. Do you really think you will be able to get enough vendors to fill up another shed?

A. Yes, beyond any doubt. Last year we had to turn away people every Saturday and try to fit as many as we could on the ends of the buildings under tents.

Q. I heard someone complain that there is not enough produce and that there are too many crafters. Isn't the market supposed to be for farmers since it is called a farmers market?

A. Yes, we hear that all the time but the market is primarily for farmers and we never turn a farmer away. They always have first priority when we register for the season and also during the season. If we have people waiting on Saturdays for a space, farmers are always given first choice. As for the complaint of not having enough produce, you have to remember that early in the season there naturally is not as much produce available.

But we also love to have our crafters with their beautiful handmade items and try to accommodate as many as possible. Having both produce and crafts makes for an inviting and interesting market. The market is a fantastic place to buy and support our local vendors who work so hard. We are very proud that Union County has been able to provide such a space. We are the envy of many other counties and have had visitors from other counties and other states who would like to build something similar.

Q. When will the market open this year?

A. Trash to Treasure will begin on Thursday, April 10th and will be held every Thursday and Friday thereafter until the end of the season. The opening day of the Farmers Market season will be Saturday, June 7th and the first Tuesday market will be Tuesday, June 10th. Many special events are planned for this year including the Ramp and Strawberry Festivals and we hope you will come out and support us. Go to www.ucfarmersmarket.com for the 2014 Calendar of Events.

Q. Are there opportunities at the market for non-profit organizations?

A. Yes, definitely. If you are a non-profit, civic, school or church organization you can reserve a booth at no cost. There are a few guidelines. The main product being sold to raise funds must be a food product, preferably one that is designed to be eaten there at the market. There are over 60 vendors and volunteers that would like an opportunity to have snacks and meals, as well as those attending the market. Of course, the preference would be food that is "homemade", such as baked goods, chili, grilled items, salads, lemonade, boiled peanuts, roasted nuts, etc.

Q. Can you sell items other than food?

A. Yes, you can but this would be at the discretion of the Market Manager. In addition to your food sales, you could sell tickets to an upcoming event of your organization, raffle tickets for a fundraiser, or distribute information about your organization.

Q. What are the guidelines for non-profits at the market?

A. You must arrive at least 30 minutes before the market opens, and stay until the end of the market. Electricity, water and trash removal are supplied. You will need to provide everything else. You are also encouraged to invest in good signage, promoting your organization and the products you are selling – with prices. This is a fantastic opportunity to raise money for your organization. Call 706-781-8802 for more information.