

Market comes back to town

Written by Meaghan Glassett

Wednesday, 15 July 2009 10:32

Green Hanson will kick off its eight-week farmers' market series in August at the Thomas Mill. Locally grown products, such as freshly picked fruits and vegetables, will be available for purchase.

It has been years since Hanson has had a farmers' market, Green Hanson member Nancy Marshall said.

The farmers' market will open once a week on Saturdays starting on Aug. 8 and will last through Sept. 26. The market will be held from 8-11 a.m. rain or shine.

The new farmers' market will tie into Green Hanson's mission to build a sustainable community, Marshall said.

The group has been working to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices into residents' daily lives, so they feel invested in Hanson's community and natural resources.

"What we wanted to do is to provide the people in the community with a place to go and socialize and also give them access to local food, produce or baked goods," Marshall said.

The farmers' market also ties in with the community gardens that Green Hanson started a year ago.

Garden plots are located on High Street behind the Extension Service building. The 10x20 foot plots are available on a first come first serve basis.

Residents were able to sign up to use the community garden, free of charge, to plant everything from corn to peas and squash.

Last year there were nine plots used in the community garden. This year there are 12 plots that were offered and they are mostly full, Marshall said.

Marshall said it's nice to see more people taking advantage of the plots.

Last year, the community garden members got together and had a potluck dinner with a variety of produce they had grown.

Hobby farm vendors may reserve tables at the farmers' market on a weekly basis. Space will be available for \$10 a week on a first come first serve basis. These vendors may sell a neighboring farmers' produce. Commercial farm-vendors are expected to attend the market every week and are required to pay a \$120 fee.

Green Hanson recommends that farms get certified to accept Massachusetts Farmers' Market coupons.

Non-farmers may also sign up for tables with a \$10 weekly cost. All foods and arts and crafts will be of high quality and locally made, according to Green Hanson's Web site.

The Green Hanson Market Committee may restrict the number of vendors selling similar products.

"Hopefully it will be a good variety," Marshall said.

The idea is to create a sustainable community and to give both local growers and artisans a spot to sell their goods, Marshall said.

“Green Hanson will be offering free coffee, and we hope people coming from morning soccer and CCD will be able to stop by,” Marshall said.

In addition, Green Hanson hopes to have performers at the market, such as musicians, clowns, jugglers and storytellers.

Fundraising is discouraged at the market, but may be allowed as a secondary goal pending approval by the committee.

For more information on the farmers' market visit greenhanson.org.