

Grants help boost Farmers' Market

Written by Sentinel Staff

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Downtown Bowling Green has received a grant from the Bowling Green Community Foundation to support the newly-launched Farmers' Market. The grant funds will help defray operating and promotional costs for the market.

The foundation is a non-profit agency begun in 1994 to improve the quality of life in the Bowling Green area.

In addition to the \$3,000 grant from the foundation, Downtown BG also will receive a \$1,500 grant from the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Marketing Division. These are matching funds and the program specifically seeks to foster the growth of community farmers' markets.

"We are very grateful to the Community Foundation and the Department of Agriculture for the grants," said Downtown BG Director Barbara Ruland. "We are working to create a long-term asset for the community with the Downtown Farmers' Market. The support of the Community Foundation, the Department of Agriculture, and our market sponsors has us well launched on the project."

The Farmers' Market is held every Wednesday, from 3-8 p.m. on South Main Street. Market Manager Penny Parker and Arts and Crafts Manager Sandy Wicks have been working with Ruland to create a market that celebrates the town and the region's agricultural heritage. Most market sessions also feature entertainment of one form or another, giving the markets a bit of a festival atmosphere. The June 9 market is Huntington Day. Children's authors Stacey Gabel and Richard Neuman will sign their books from 4 to 6 p.m., and the Brick Street Strummers dulcimer group will perform from 6 to 8 p.m. In addition, the first 25 market patrons who visit the Downtown BG booth will receive a market tote bag, courtesy of the Huntington.

There are several long-term vendors at the market, offering fresh produce, flowers, plants, baked goods, and arts and crafts. Spaces are reserved for occasional vendors so there will be unique offerings each week.. Information about offerings will be updated weekly at www.downtownbgohio.org.