

# Sales double for downtown farmer's market

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In its second season under new management, the Springfield Farmer's Market, featuring local produce, meats, baked goods and crafts is prospering. "We're making between \$4,500 and \$5,000 per day, which is about double from last year," Gene Barnett, market co-manager, said.

Barnett credits this year's increased revenues to a growing public interest in fresh, organic food. "People are looking for healthier alternatives, and they can get that here," he said.

Vendors are all local and the fruits and vegetables they sell are pesticide-free. Most are picked the day of sale. Meats sold at the market are produced without steroids, growth hormones or antibiotics.

Continued support from local businesses remains vital to the market's success, he said.

Every week a different business sponsors the market, donating \$500 for banners, marketing and fees including the musicians that play every week. Sponsors include Clark County Commissioners, Hetico Insurance and Link-Hellmuth Ltd.

Littleton and Rue Funeral Home, Sheehan Brothers Vending and Security National Bank are among local businesses donating goods and services.

With the prospect of other strong seasons ahead, Barnett said the market is looking for a permanent indoor site downtown to offer the event year-round.

"We want to grow the Farmer's Market here," he said, "and be a part of the overall growth in downtown Springfield."

The Farmer's Market is held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday on North Market Street between the **Heritage Center** and Elderly United. Opportunities to attend will continue through September 29.

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