

Market aims to open eyes to organics

Fresh-picked produce at Farmer's Market lets Springfield customers experience quality products.

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Always homegrown, always Springfield's Farmer's Market. Super Wal-Mart's predecessor returns 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays - June 2 to Sept. 29 - providing customers more for their dollar, said market co-manager Sherry Chen.

"Most people use price as the main component to buy food," said Chen. "Instead, they should look at quality and ingredients."

The Farmer's Market, located on Market Street between the Clark County **Heritage Center** and Elderly United, provides various goods from 15 area farmers' organic foods to homemade lotions and soups.

Chen, who raises organic chickens, hopes the market's about 25 vendors per day close the gap between producer and consumer, and strengthen the community.

As for those still choosing mass-produced foods, Chen encourages customers to try the market's vegetables, most of which are handpicked the day of sale. "The difference (between chain grocers and the Farmer's Market) is more philosophical than physical," said Chen. "We hope to educate people to become label readers."

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