



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## GETTING FRESH IS A FAMILY AFFAIR AT THE FARMERS MARKET

**The Downtown Hyde Park Chicago Farmers Market and Artisan Goods** opens the season on Thursday, June 6, 2019 with new style, new vendors, DJ music and fantastic family days. The Farmers Market opens every Thursday 7:00 am – 1:00 pm at Harper Court, 5235 S. Harper Ave. The market, managed by the Special Service Area #61, operates rain or shine and welcomes the community, neighbors, and visitors from June 6 through October 31, 2019.

This year, the market features five farmers--one organic and two brand new to the market, local small businesses and artisan vendors. The interest in vendor space reached an all-time high with more than 60 vendors from Illinois, Indiana and Michigan vying for an opportunity to fill less than 50 available spaces. In addition to fresh fruits, vegetables, plants and baked goods, each Thursday will also include essential oils, healthy skin care, books, tutoring, eye care, children's toys, wellness education, and home décor products.

*"This year is the strongest market ever. It's like a whole new market. Our focus on families emphasizes healthy lifestyles and wellness for all ages. We've increased the variety for shoppers with twice the number of vendors as last year. We have giveaways, community information and free bites throughout the season,"* says Eric E. Reaves, Director, Special Service Area #61.

**Special Date:** The Farmers Market will coincide with Independence Day, Thursday, July 4, 2019 and will be a great addition for the spectator and participants in the annual "4<sup>th</sup> on 53<sup>rd</sup>" parade and picnic in Hyde Park. *"Independence Day weekend has typically been the time when area farms are in full production. We are excited to offer the market on the holiday at a time when families are joined together,"* says Reaves.

**Special Engagement:** The market will introduce a unique approach to family, fun, wellness and education, thanks to *Jenny LeFlore's Mama Fresh Family Days*. The first Thursday of June, August, September and October will feature Hyde Park's own "Mama Fresh" and a bevy of experiences for young kids including singing, dancing, yoga, storytelling, and cooking demonstrations.

The ambiance of the Farmers Market is changing to accommodate more genres of music and new talent of all ages. With collaboration and sponsorship from the University of Chicago and assistance from *Nick Nicholson's DJ Academy*, a wide diversity of DJs will help liven up the market every week to keep the energy flowing.

For a limited time, the Farmers Market will offer free reusable shopping bags at the hospitality desk and free lunch bites, grilled corn, hot dogs and/or burgers on scheduled days.

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The Downtown Hyde Park Chicago Farmers Market and Artisan Goods is managed by Special Service Area #61 and supported by South East Chicago Commission, University of Chicago's Commercial Real Estate Operations and Harper Court. [www.downtownhydeparkchicago.com](http://www.downtownhydeparkchicago.com)

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