

PRESS RELEASE



City of Bristol Tennessee

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State Street Farmers Market celebrates National Farmers Market Week

The State Street Farmer's Market joins markets across the country in celebrating National Farmer's Market Week from August 5-11. During the week of celebration the market will feature two festivals. On Saturday, August 4, 2018, the annual Tomato Fest will be featuring some of the best tomatoes raised in our area. Stop buy and pick up a hot biscuit fresh from the oven topped with a juicy slice of red tomato. At the close of Farmer's Market Week on Saturday, August 11, 2018, the market will feature Corn Fest. Stop by the market and get your buttery, hot corn on the cob. The market features several varieties of corn, so patrons may sample the sweetest corn this side of the state. The market will also have free recyclable shopping bags and this year's market posters on hand for as long as they last.

As demand for local food continues to grow, so too have the opportunities for America's farmers to market fresh fold directly to the consumer. According to statistics recently released by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), farmer's markets and farm stands account for roughly \$2 billion of the \$3 billion that Americans spend annually on farm-direct products. This revenue, in turn, supports the livelihoods of more than 165,000 mostly small and mid-sized farms and ranches.

The State Street Farmer's Market begin in 1999, and currently hosts 40 farmers selling a wide variety of products including, tomatoes, corn, squash, greens, green beans, cucumbers, onions, lettuce, potatoes, broccoli, locally grown meats, eggs, and lots more. The State Street Farmer's Market usually generates over \$100,000 annually for these local producers, a valuable economic boost for the region.

"A farmer's market is one of the best ways to experience the true nature of any city. You meet the remarkable men and women who grow the fresh vegetables that are sold at the booths, you get to know them with ease while talking about a commonality, food," said Mike Musick, the market

manager. “While it is a very social atmosphere, it is also a place where commerce takes place in a very quiet unassuming manner.”

The State Street Farmer’s Market accepts SNAP/EBT, WIC, and Virginia Senior vouchers.

For more information on the State Street Farmer’s Market go to www.statestreetfarmersmarket.com or contact Mike Musick at 423-764-4026, or email mmusick@bristoltn.org.