

Farmer's Market Season

Our local producers have been hard at work and the market will get cooking on July 7th. The market will be open every Saturday through October from 7:30am to noon in the parking lot between Schwan's Corp 1 facility and the YMCA.

2018 Highlights:

- The market now has a website at marshallfarmersmarket.org. You can find the vendor application, vendor and market coordinator contacts, performance schedules, and details on all the market happenings.
- Find the market on Facebook at Marshall Farmer's Market
- There will be weekly performance art from 9 to 11am each week thanks to a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council. The schedule is available online or at businesses around SW MN.
- Power of Produce is back in an expanded form. Thanks to the University of Minnesota Extension and the United Way of Southwest Minnesota 1,250 two dollar tokens are available while supplies last for children aged 4 to 12 years. Children are able to visit with the vendors to learn about locally produced foods and purchase \$2 worth of healthy produce. Special Power of Produce youth activities will also take place from 7:30 to noon in July – September featuring the Lyon County Library, 4H & SNAP Ed from the U of MN Extension, Hy-Vee, Healthy56258, Open Door Health Clinic and the Y. Watch for this schedule of fun activities for youth.
- The market accepts both credit cards and SNAP benefits. Thanks to a grant through Hunger Solutions matching Market Bucks of up to \$10 per week are available to SNAP recipients. For example, use \$5 of SNAP benefits and receive \$5 from Hunger Solutions. Up to \$10 of grant dollars **each** week.
- Water and Sewer work will close Saratoga Street much of the summer. For this reason vendors will be located on the west side of the parking lot this summer. The only entry for parking will be off of Marvin Schwan Memorial Drive just north of the YMCA facility.
- Almost all market activities are facilitated through grant dollars from local and regional funders. Some grants have matching donation requirements. Please contact me at the Y if you are interested in financially supporting the market. Tom Bolin at tbolin@marshallareaymca.org

The market continues to thrive thanks to the 50+ dedicated vendors and logistical and financial support from many local entities. Trained volunteers serve at the information booth and assist with credit card and SNAP transactions along with facilitating the Power of Produce program. Other supporting organizations include: The Southwest Minnesota

Arts Council, University of Minnesota Extension, Statewide Health Improvement Plan, Hunger Solutions, United Way of Southwest Minnesota, United Community Action Partnership, Bremer Bank, Henle Printing, Healthy 56258, SNAP-Ed, Schwan's Company, and the City of Marshall. The YMCA serves as the fiscal host for the market; overseeing the market financials, providing a logistical base and furnishing the platform for grant application eligibility.

I hope to see you at the market summer. Have questions? Contact Kim Guenther, the Market Coordinator at market@marshallareaymca.org