



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Opening Day at Birmingham 'Drive-Through' Farmers Market set for Sunday, May 3**  
*New format, same fresh produce coming to Public Parking Lot 6*

**BIRMINGHAM, MI**, April 24, 2020 – The Birmingham Farmers Market will kick off its 18th season on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> as planned, however there will be many changes in place to keep farmers, shoppers and staff safe. The drive-through market will feature only farmers and vendors who grow their own food products, and adjusted hours will be 9 a.m. - noon every Sunday in Public Parking Lot 6 at 660 North Old Woodward.

Birmingham Farmers Market shoppers can expect to find Michigan-grown produce subject to Michigan growing patterns, plus fresh locally raised shrimp, eggs and meat from vendors such as: Beaverland Farms, East River Organic Farm, Farm & Forest LLC, Fusilier Family Farms, Motor City Sea Farm LLC, The Feminine Farmer, Uhlianuk Farms and Greenhouse and more. The market will be closed to pedestrians and open to vehicles only. Cars will travel north and enter the market off North Old Woodward. Display tables will be set up at the entrance to show packages offered at each station throughout the market. Cars will then drive around the perimeter of the market to make their purchase. Shoppers will remain in their vehicles and place exact cash into a basket. Shoppers are encouraged to bring small bills for purchasing mainly \$10 or \$20 packages; change will not be provided. Items will be placed into the trunk of vehicles.

"We're so pleased to bring back the Birmingham Farmers Market during uncertain times," said Ingrid Tighe, Executive Director of the Birmingham Shopping District. "We have the following three goals in mind as we kick off this season: offer a needed service to the community, keep local farmers in business, and keep our residents, farmers and staff safe."

By late spring, shoppers will find home-grown rhubarb, parsnips, herbs, early organic vegetables, strawberries, garden plants, zucchini, cucumbers, hoop-house tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, basil, beans, mushrooms, turnips, kale, lettuce, green onions, sugar peas, radishes and spinach.

The Birmingham Farmers Market, along with the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA), is pleased to announce that Birmingham Shopping District Assistant Event Coordinator, Sierra Okoniewski, recently completed the MIFMA Market Manager Certificate Program. Okoniewski is one of approximately 300 individuals certified since the program began in 2011. She completed 35 hours of training focused on leadership skills and professional development in topics essential to market management.



A special thank you to Birmingham Farmers Market sponsors, including: Bank of Ann Arbor – Birmingham Branch, Dogtopia, and Najor Companies. Thank you to Birmingham Farmers Market legacy sponsors, including: Caruso Caruso, Phoenicia Restaurant, Forest and Salvatore Scallopini.

Shoppers can access the most up-to-date information about the market by "liking" the Birmingham Shopping District Facebook page, following us on Twitter and Instagram @BhamShopping, or visiting [www.AllinBirmingham.com/FarmersMarket](http://www.AllinBirmingham.com/FarmersMarket).

Established in 1992, the BIRMINGHAM PRINCIPAL SHOPPING DISTRICT is comprised of more than 300 retailers, including clothing retailers, restaurants, salons & spas, and antique shops. The district is also home to offices and a variety of businesses from financial services to technology-based firms. Located among some of the nation's most affluent suburbs, Downtown Birmingham is a center for business, social, cultural, and community activities for Birmingham residents and neighboring communities.

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