

February 29, 2016

Hi Carlyle Courthouse Square Farmers' Market Vendors of 2016,

The 2016 Carlyle Courthouse Square Farmers' Market vendor application is attached.

Still waiting on implementation rules for Public Act 98-0660 signed by the Governor in June 2014. There is nothing new since last year. What is still in place for this year is "place of origin" signage/labeling, and the Cottage Food portion. If you are a "cottage food" vendor, please have your registration certificate from your county of residence available on all Market dates attended. Also, provide us a copy to give to the Clinton County Health Department.

We had new requirements for sample handling last year. They haven't changed – see application.

The City of Carlyle is again going to be helping with the closed street and electric, some copying and banner and sign costs.

The Carlyle Lake Chamber of Commerce is providing some insurance. Note the indemnification requirements in the 2016 application. We are not requiring vendors to have insurance, but it is strongly recommended. Besides accident and general liability insurance, consider product liability insurance (the Market has no product liability insurance). You may be able to get a rider on your homeowners insurance.

The Carlyle Courthouse Square Market this year will be from June 16 – October 6. We hope to get our permit for all of October in case 2015's weather repeats. Markets will be every Thursday night from 4 to 7 PM. Set - up starts at 3:00. Rain or shine – we do cancel if we know a bad thunderstorm is heading our way!

Our Market is for locally grown fruits and vegetables, baked goods, honey, herbs, seeds, nuts, flowers, plants, eggs, allowed meats, wine, and very limited craft items like soy candles, soap, and fabric goods.

We would like to have food demonstrations again this year. We have a microwave and electric fry pan to use. Several of the vendors have indicated that they would do food demonstrations as is done at other markets. It is to your advantage to fix something and let the customers try it to achieve more sales. It may be a fruit or vegetable the customer has never bought because they do not know how to fix it, or they have never tasted it. Please let me know when you would like to do this and what you

are fixing. Simple to fix, quick recipes that taste good are needed. Proper sanitation with hand washing facilities is your responsibility.

The Master Gardeners will have a booth the third Thursday of each month.

The WIC/Senior coupons will be available this year. You can only accept the coupons for fresh fruit and vegetables if you are in the Program. Contact Sue Couri at the Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Family Nutrition, 217-524-3354, Sue.Couri@illinois.gov.

If you have any questions feel free to call or email me. You may find the other vendors are better at giving answers on some questions. I am really impressed by vendors helping other vendors over the past years.

Love and God Bless,

Darlene Rodden, Market Master
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