

FARM MARKET REPORT

New features at the Woodstock Farm Market

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New features and fixtures are now appearing at the Woodstock Farm and Craft Market. First of all, Pam Burpee will be introducing a new feature on this Wednesday, Feb. 4. She will have a selection of newly baked muffins for sale along with hot coffee.

So downtown folks and those coming into town on Wednesday, can now stop by the Farm Market for a little brunch or an afternoon break. Pam is starting this new food service on Wednesday, but in due course hopes to extend it to other weekdays and Saturday Watch this Market Report for notice of expanded service. On Friday, Sarah and Len Sherman operate the Market Café with their breakfast and lunch menu as usual.

Pam Burpee's initiative goes along with other changes taking place in the market. Major interior renovations have been taking place during January and will be mostly complete by the middle of February.

The market has long had a problem with the space for breakfast and lunch tables on Friday when the café is in operation. The only space available for tables was right down the middle of the east aisle. In warm weather, it helped to have the tables on the deck available, but in cold

weather, space for eating is confined to inside. Even when not being used for eating, the tables tended to be a barrier to some of the vendors' display space.

The Farm Market board of directors has been pondering what to do about this for a long time. Finally, a plan has been devised that will solve this problem and create better display space for vendors as well. Currently, the renovation is about half done, so when you come to the market, you may find some vendors' items in a different place or in a different arrangement.

The renovations are not interrupting market business. Hours of operation remain the same – Monday through Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

When the renovations are completed, the market will have an enlarged and much more convenient seating arrangement for breakfast and lunch patrons on Friday, and for the development of a muffin and coffee service during the other days of the week. The new seating arrangement will be a good place for friends to meet for conversation. And vendor display space will be improved as well.

If you come to the market and don't find what you are looking for in its usual place, ask the volunteer clerk on duty for directions. Things will soon be settled down in the new arrangement.

January is usually a fairly quiet month at the Woodstock Farm and Craft Market, but this past month has been surprisingly busy. Even with the repeated snowfalls and frigid temperatures, many regular customers seem to have market products on their shopping lists. Buying local and supporting local producers is increasingly recognized as good business for a good community.

Keith Helmuth One of the founders and a longtime member of the Woodstock Farm Market