



Contact: Trenton L. Funkhouser, AICP
Market Manager
P.O. Box 1011
Tappahannock, VA 22560-1079
E-Mail : manager@tappahannockmarket.com
Phone: (804) 445-2067
www.tappahannockmarket.com

PRESS RELEASE

10/13/17

Tappahannock Farmers' Market Returns - 6th Market - Saturday, October 21st

A Tappahannock tradition continues with the 6th Market of the 2017 Season on Saturday, October 21st from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Cross and Prince Streets in Downtown Tappahannock. The Market season is the 3rd Saturday - April through November except June during the annual Tappahannock RivahFest!

The annual Halloween costume contest returns for the October Market coordinated by Melissa Cleaton Shearwood and her team. Contest is for newborns to 12 year olds and starts at 10:00 on the Circuit Courthouse steps on Prince Street. There are gift cards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and a free 8 x 10 picture from Picture This By Dawn for the 1st place costume. Adults are encouraged to dress up as well but the contest is just for the kids and, please, don't trample any little ones if you get the urge to compete for free candy. Thanks to Barbour Printing, Picture This By Dawn, River Country News, and Tappahannock Main Street Program for sponsoring this contest each year. Please be sure and thank the Shearwood Team for handling the contest and valiantly shepherding the kids on parade through the Market each year.

The Market has a diverse mix of produce vendors and food ranging from fresh breads, cakes and pies to kettle corn to beef and sausages. A large number of crafters, artists and jewelry makers are in good company with local wineries offering free samples and bottles to go in the Wine Garden at each Market.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 316 of Tappahannock return for the October and November Market with hot soups to eat on-site or carry-out. This is a wonderful opportunity to buy some soup and help the Scouts learn valuable social skills, a strong work ethic and individual and team dedication to setting and meeting goals.

Brunswick Stew! – Yes, it will be back as well for the October and November Markets prepared on-site by the Arlington Lodge Masons of Essex County. Get your order in early the day of the Market or you might get nothing as it is very popular and always sells out.

The Christmas Elves from St. John's Episcopal Church will be at the market for their second appearance with a variety of items including handmade wooden Christmas folk-art, wreaths of all kinds, ornaments, child-friendly wooden nativities, and much more. Proceeds will go to "For the Boys", a project that will provide Christmas gifts for the teenage boys of Essex County who might not otherwise have Christmas.

Caret Cellars and The Hague Winery will be featured at the November Market. See and taste Caret Cellars products at the Market Wine Garden and their vineyard just north of Town and just off Route 17 in Caret, VA (495 Meadow Landing Lane – From Route 624 – Essex Church Road). Ask them about their participation in the region's Wine Trail and their work in support of the newly formed Middle Peninsula Artisan Trail.

The October 21st Market includes favorite vendors from past seasons as well as many new products. Garner's Produce, Level Green Farms, Nathan France and Javier Godines will return with their extensive monthly selections. Lover's Retreat Dairy is always popular for their locally produced cheeses, spreads, milk, and eggs.

Food while you shop and to take home includes Great Harvest Breads, Lady Jane's Kettle Corn, GG's Doghouse, Bright Eyes Concession and Catering, Whitley's Peanuts, The Smoothie Hut and Essex Churches Together. New Life Community Church always has great cakes, pies and cookies.

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners' booth provides research based answers to all of your gardening questions each month. As the volunteer arm of Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Master Gardeners have a variety of resource materials to provide. For October they have information on preparing your lawn for next year by applying the correct amount of fertilizer this fall. The first step to a beautiful lawn is to have a soil test done. The Master Gardeners have soil test kits available to tell you how to determine the number of tests you need, where to send the kit and how to read the information you will receive back from Virginia Tech's Soil Test Lab.

Now that fall is here and gardening chores are decreasing, it is time to prepare your garden tools for the winter. They have suggestions on what to do to ensure you keep your tools in tip top shape for the next growing season and also have examples of Master Gardeners' "Favorite Tools". They also rain barrels for sale – a good tool for your lawn or garden and a great way to conserve [ground]water.

For everyone with a garden, now is the time to prepare your garden for the winter. What needs to be cut down and what needs to be left until spring are common questions they are happy to answer. Fall is the perfect time to transplant and divide perennials and find out what perennials are recommended for this area and what plants are "Natives".

So, plan on stopping by the Master Gardeners' booth to say hello and pick up some information. They welcome your questions and are always eager to hear your gardening experiences – what works for you and what did not. If you don't have a question on your mind the day of the Market, they can provide

contact information to use when you need it - Stop by and say hello – the Master Gardeners all love to talk about gardening!

The Indian Rivers Humane Society will continue to be on hand to spread the word on the good work they do for cats and dogs as well as meet some of the prospective owners of pets from the shelter. Other non-profit groups such as Essex Backpack Meals, Essex Churches Together and the Tappahannock-Essex Volunteer Fire Department are also returning to share information on their missions and raise funds to continue their community work.

The Market always encourages you to explore the local year-round businesses in the downtown area when you are finished with your Market shopping and eating.

VOLUNTEER – Please. The Tappahannock Farmers' Market and Tappahannock Main Street Program are looking for volunteers to assist on Market Days. They also need people interested in helping with some planned Main Street projects. Contact Trent Funkhouser at 804-238-8043 or ed@essex-virginia.org.

ABOUT TAPPAHANNOCK FARMERS' MARKET

Tappahannock Farmers' Market is an initiative of the Tappahannock Main Street Program in partnership with Essex County and Town of Tappahannock. The Market is located at Prince & Cross Streets in historic downtown Tappahannock. The Market is the third Saturday of every month from April through November, except June during the annual Tappahannock RivahFest!

For more information about the Farmers' Market, participating as a vendor or as a volunteer, please visit www.tappahannockmarket.com call 804-445-2067 or email manager@tappahannockmarket.com

The Tappahannock Farmers' Markets receives generous support of local businesses and continues to explore ways to make Tappahannock a more vibrant community. If you have suggestions for new products, new vendors or community improvements, please email manager@tappahannockmarket.com or call 804-445-2067.

Please remember the market continues to be a successful event because of your local community support. Please let the market vendors know how much you appreciate their presence in Tappahannock every month! As in all free market business ventures, they will continue to come back if your shopping makes it worth their while. Thank you to our customers and vendors for your support!

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