



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUMMER IS IN THE AIR IN DOWNTOWN AS PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP'S MARKET SQUARE FARMERS MARKET REOPENS THIS THURSDAY, MAY 11

- **13TH SEASON OFFERS GREATER VARIETY WITH 13 NEW PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME VENDORS, INCLUDING LOCAL DISTILLERIES**
- **THOUSANDS OF FREE FLOWER BULB & TREES TO BE GIVEN AWAY AT SEASON OPENER FROM WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY**

Downtown Pittsburgh – The Market Square Farmers Market returns on Thursday, May 11 for its 13th season. Presented by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, the Market features more than 30 vendors of locally grown produce, organic products, small-batch foods, and live entertainment. The Market occurs rain or shine each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through October 26, 2017.

With a new Farmers Market season comes many new part-time and full-time vendors increasing the Market's already diverse product offerings. This year, 13 new participants will join the Market, including several new farmers, two pickling vendors and due to changes in state laws, several local distillers will be able to sell their product at the Market for the first time. The complete list of full and part time vendors is available below.

"The Market Square Farmers Market has continued to grow and develop over the last twelve years. We hear time and again from Downtown patrons how much they look forward to each week of the market and how the market fills a true need in our neighborhood," said Jeremy Waldrup President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. "We are pleased to welcome thirteen new, diverse vendors, we are certain they will add to the vibrancy of the overall market."

According to Nicole Olson of Two Acre Farm, a returning market vendor "We absolutely love being outside, eating local food, having fun with a great bunch of people and being part of a wonderful community initiative, so swing in and say "hi,' and come hungry!"

After much success in previous years, the PDP Small Business Spotlight program is returning to the Market. The program is designed to support small retailers in Downtown Pittsburgh. Several weeks at the Market, a featured Downtown retailer will showcase their offerings to promote engagement with the Market's more than 5,000 weekly visitors. Among the Downtown businesses slated to participate this year are Larrimors and Boutique La Passerelle. More information on the program can be found at <http://downtownpittsburgh.com/do-business/retail-small-business-resources/>

To kick off the season, The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will once again give away thousands of recycled daffodil bulbs during the market on this Thursday starting at 10:00 a.m. The Conservancy is distributing bulbs removed earlier this spring from its planters around Pittsburgh. The Conservancy will also give away 500 Eastern redbud tree seedlings as part of the Pittsburgh Redbud Project, an initiative that has planted 1,200 flowering redbud and other native trees on trails, hillsides and open spaces in Downtown Pittsburgh in view of the city's riverfronts. The bulbs and seedlings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis as long as supplies last.

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In addition to the excellent vendors, the Market features free, weekly entertainment, including performances from a variety of local festivals, groups and luminaries such as the Pittsburgh Opera and Pittsburgh Irish Festival. The first of many local musical artists performing throughout the season will be Jason Kendall Productions, who will perform this Thursday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Market will also present special theme days such as Christmas in July, Irish Day, and a Halloween Bash.

[Just Harvest](#) will be back conducting their [Fresh Access program](#) every week of the 2017 Farmers Market season. This program enables shoppers to use their credit/debit cards and food stamps via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) to purchase a variety of fresh produce, baked goods, meat, and dairy products. SNAP users can swipe their cards and receive tokens that are accepted by many of the vendors. Users of the token service for credit and debit card purchases will be asked to contribute \$1 per transaction to defray costs of the program.

2017 Farmers Market Vendors

The list of regular Market Square Farmers Market vendors features many familiar faces who, along with a mix of new participants, will bring diverse products to market (* **denotes new vendor**).

*Alpha Farms – Located on what was formerly Breezy Hill Farm, specializing in a variety of fresh produce and microgreens

[Always Summer Herbs](#) – Family business specializing in honey, tea, and herbs from Slippery Rock, PA

*[Andrews Farm Market](#) – Delicious farm fresh fruits and vegetables from St. Thomas, PA.

[Aunt Carol's Gourmet Dips](#) – Pre-packaged homemade dip packets that you whip up fresh at home

[Batch](#) – Unique homemade jams and jellies made from surprising ingredients

Billy's Country Smoke House – Frozen and smoked meats to go and delicious ready-to-eat sandwiches

*[Brenckle's Organic Farm & Greenhouses](#) – Certified organic produce, flowers, and vegetable seedlings from Zelienople, PA.

*[City Fresh Pasta](#) – Made from scratch fresh gourmet pastas, ravioli, pierogis, gnocchi, artisanal sauces and butters

Cinco De Mayo Salsas – Fire roasted salsas and dips

[Cobbler World](#) – Cobblers, cheesecakes, pound cakes and more

[Enon Valley Garlic](#) – Featuring over 20 varieties of garlic

[Fabulous Homemade Cookies](#) – The name says it all! A local favorite

[Family Farms Creamery](#) – Cheese, yogurt, milk, and delicious homemade ice cream

[Good L'Oven Bakery](#) - Specializing in old fashioned cookies using all natural ingredients from local sources

[GoodLIFE Juices](#) – Carefully crafted cold pressed health juices

[Gosia's Pierogies](#) – Fresh ready-to-eat pierogies from a Polish family recipe

[Hello Hummus](#) – Offers handmade, small batch hummus

[Jose Quiroz Farm](#) – Home grown produce out of Salem, OH

*[La Scola's Italian Ice & Frozen Custards](#) – Homemade Italian Ices, frozen custards and basil lemonade.

[Little Athens Catering](#) – Ready-to-eat Greek foods such as grape leaves, spanakopita, pastitsio and more

[Mediterra Bakehouse](#) - Bread baked in custom stone-hearth, steam-injected ovens.

*[Ohio Farm Direct](#) – Variety of certified organic, 100 % grass fed cheeses;

[The Olive Tap](#) – Unique, flavorful and fresh; award-winning olive oils and balsamic vinegars

*[The Pickled Chef](#) – Local canning, preserving and pickling company features a variety of all natural preservative free hand canned and hand packed products

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[Ridgeview Acres Farm](#) – Located between Ligonier and Donegal, a family owned and operated farm specializing in fresh cut flowers

[Sand Hill Berries](#) – Pies, jam, fresh berries, and jellies

[Simmons Farm](#) – Fruits, vegetables, flowers

Sweet Patootie – Homemade and natural pet treats

[Two Acre Farm](#) – All-natural, gluten-free, sugar-free artisan sauces, rubs, and condiments

*The Brinery at Two Acre – A new venture from the folk at Two Acre - fresh homemade pickles in a variety of unique flavors!

[Underhill Farm](#) – Artisan yarn and wool from Leicester Longwool sheep and Angora goats

[Woolf Farms](#) – Formerly Morning Dew Orchard, apples, strawberries, blueberries, cherries, sweet corn, and cider

Part Time Vendors

In addition to the vendors who will be at the Market each week, the PDP looks forward to welcoming rotating vendors, including several new vendors who will join the Market for limited engagements.

[A519 Chocolate](#) – Hand-painted chocolate truffles in assorted flavors

[Drew Mathieson Center for Horticulture & Agriculture Technology](#) – Plants, herbs, and hanging baskets

*[Forever Greene](#) - Hydroponic beef steak tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, and sweet bell peppers

*[Fudge Farm](#) – Gourmet fudge and chocolates made in the heart of Pittsburgh

*[KingView Mead](#) - Tantalizing your taste buds with mixtures of golden honey and the finest of fruits and spices, KingView crafts their mead to connect you to the Earth and the wonderful world of ambrosia

*[McLaughlin Distillery](#) – Small Batch Craft Distillery located in Sewickley, Pennsylvania; produces high quality Bourbon, Moonshine, and Vodka

*[Pigeon](#) – Hand rolled bagels baked fresh daily, house cream cheese, bagel breakfast sandwiches

[Pisarcik Greenhouses & Flower Studio](#) – Fresh flowers including Annuals, Perennials, herbs, succulents, and more

*Ron's Sno Cones & Homemade Candy – Locally made summer fair classics! Snow Cones, freshly popped popcorn, homemade popcorn balls, homemade cashew brittle

*[Wigle Whiskey](#) – An array of award-winning organic craft spirits, made in Pittsburgh

About the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is a dynamic, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders, property owners, civic organizations, foundations and residents who provide energy, vision and advocacy for Downtown Pittsburgh. Working collaboratively with its partners, the PDP strives to create a positive Downtown experience for residents, workers and visitors alike. The PDP's strategic initiatives include clean and safe services, transportation, and economic development and advocacy. For more information, visit www.DowntownPittsburgh.com, follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/downtownpitt> and "like" us on Facebook.

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