



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SPRING ARRIVES DOWNTOWN WITH THE RETURN OF
PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP'S POPULAR FARMERS MARKET IN MARKET SQUARE**

- **GREEN MOUNTAIN ENERGY SPONSORS 15TH SEASON
AND PARTNERS WITH HEALTHY RIDE TO HELP PEOPLE LIVE GREENER**
- **DOWNTOWN SOUND SERIES OF LOCAL MUSIC PERFORMANCES PRESENTED UNDER PNC STAGE**
- **SEASON OPENS THURSDAY, MAY 16 WITH GREATER VARIETY OF FAVORITE AND NEW VENDORS**
- **ANNUAL KICK-OFF TRADITION CONTINUES WITH FREE BULB AND REDBUD SAPLING GIVE-AWAY
FROM WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY**

Downtown Pittsburgh – The Market Square Farmers Market, presented by Green Mountain Energy, returns on Thursday, May 16 for its 15th season. Produced by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, the Market features more than 30 vendors of locally grown produce, organic products, small-batch foods, spirits, and live entertainment under the PNC Bank Stage. The Market occurs rain or shine each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through October 31, 2019.

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. To compliment the existing fresh produce and artisanal food items, new offerings include biscuits, cheese and yogurt, foraged mushrooms, roasted nuts, maple syrup and plant-based ice cream. Local distillers, vineyards and brewers will once again sample and sell their products. The complete list of full and part time vendors is available below.

"The Market Square Farmers Market is a tremendous amenity for Downtown residents, students, and professionals, as well as a great way to support the small business community throughout the region," said Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. "We always look forward to its return as it marks the arrival of spring and the start of a busy season of events that bring vibrancy to our Downtown neighborhood."

New for 2019, Market sponsor Green Mountain Energy has teamed up with Pittsburgh's Healthy Ride for a special offer. Switching to renewable energy and using your bike are two important steps to live greener and to help save the planet. Stop by Green Mountain Energy at the Farmers Market and do both. All visitors who sign up for renewable energy will receive a free \$25 gift card to Healthy Ride, helping Pittsburgh to be even greener.

An annual favorite, The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will again give away 6,500 daffodil and tulip bulbs, and 250 redbud saplings during the season opener next Thursday starting at 10:00 a.m. The Conservancy is distributing bulbs removed earlier this spring from its planters around Downtown on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as supplies last. The redbud saplings are being given away through the Conservancy's Pittsburgh Redbud Project.

The PDP Small Business Spotlight program is also returning to the Market in a program is designed to support small retailers in Downtown Pittsburgh. The Market will frequently showcase Downtown retailers to the more than 5,000 weekly visitors. Among the businesses slated to participate is the new Downtown high-performance gym, Altus HPO, as well as a number of Downtown's finest boutiques. More information on the program can be found at <http://downtownpittsburgh.com/do-business/retail-small-business-resources/>.

As part of PDP's Downtown Sound initiative, the Market spotlights free, weekly local music under the PNC Bank Stage, including performances from a variety of local festivals, groups and luminaries including the Pittsburgh Opera. The first of many local musical artists performing throughout the season will be Mark Ferrari, who will perform next Thursday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Market will also present special theme days such as Christmas in July, and a Halloween Bash.

[Just Harvest](#) will be back conducting their [Fresh Access program](#) every week of the 2019 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.

2019 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](#) – Organic, family-run farm, specializing in a variety of fresh produce and microgreens

[Always Summer Herbs](#) – Herb and flower potted plants, herb Teas and classic blends. Honey, wax, and hive related products

[Andrews Farm Market](#) – Third generation fruit and vegetable grower with emphasis on top quality produce

[Aunt Carol's Gourmet Dips](#) – Savory, sweet and oil dips – quick, easy and delicious

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

[Billy's Country Smoke House](#) – made from scratch using the best hand trimmed ingredients, offerings include ham, kolbassi, turkey, bacon, jerky, salmon and more

[Brenckle's Organic Farm & Greenhouses](#) – USDA certified organic produce farm, specializing in spring annual flowers and organic vegetable seedlings

*[Cafe Agnes](#) - Hand-made Salvadoran cuisine using vegetables, dairy, and meat produced in Western Pennsylvania

*[Cherish Creamery](#) - All natural artisanal cheeses, yogurts and numerous other products

*[Chocolate Moonshine Co](#) - Gourmet fudge and hand-crafted artisan chocolates

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

[Cinco De Mayo Salsas](#) – Authentic Mexican fire roasted salsas and dips

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

*[Conover Organic Farm](#) - Organic farm and apiary located just outside of Burgettstown, PA, featuring fresh produce as well as small-batch, jarred products

[Fabulous Homemade Cookies](#) – A local favorite, always made from scratch and baked fresh.

[Good L'Oven Bakery](#) - Gourmet giant cookies

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

[Hello Hummus](#) – Artisan hummus and healthy, fresh salads and snacks for the local market

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

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

[Mediterra Bakehouse](#) – Bread and artisan pastries baked in custom stone-hearth, steam-injected ovens

[My Sweet Lilly](#) - Boutique bakery / pastries, lady locks, biscotti, scones, tarts

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

[Pisarcik Greenhouses & Flower Farm](#) – Fresh flowers including Annuals, Perennials, herbs, succulents, locally produced, in-season flowers and plants

*[Real Fungi LLC](#) - A cooperative of local foragers and hobbyists and the first licensed vendor of wild mushrooms and foraged foods in the Pittsburgh area

[Sand Hill Berries](#) – Farm fresh berries, fruits, and seasonal produce - along with handmade pies, jams, jellies, cookies, and more

[Simmons Farm](#) – Fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, annuals, fall decor made of corn stalks, pumpkins, etc.

Sweet Patootee – Vegetarian Dog Treats; Pet products; Products for animals

[Two Acre Farm & The Brinery](#) – Small batch products including marinara sauces and mustards, along with freshly packed hand-crafted artisan pickles

[West Penn Farm Alliance](#) - Certified organic vegetables, fruit, frozen meat (chicken, beef, pork), eggs, mushrooms

*[Wise County Biscuits](#) - Handmade Appalachia inspired biscuits and sandwiches

[Woolf Farms](#) – Family farm specializing in 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.

*[CinnaRoast](#) – Local roasters make their nuts fresh onsite using an Old World German recipe with three simple ingredients: cinnamon, sugar and vanilla

[Cutting Root Farm and Apothecary](#) - Cutting Root Farm & Apothecary cultivates over 85 different kinds of medicinal herbs, all hand processed at the height of their season into tea blends, tinctures, salves, scrubs and syrups.

[Drew Mathieson Center for Horticulture & Agriculture Technology](#) – A non-profit Horticultural and Agricultural Technology School selling orchids, annuals, perennials, assorted herbs, hanging baskets, tropicals, potted vegetable and succulents

[Ekernally Yours Gourmet Popcorn & Sweet Treats](#) - 55+ flavors of gourmet popcorn produced in small batches

*[Lemmon Bros Maple Farms](#) – Pure maple syrup from Somerset County

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

[Pittsburgh Sweet Treats](#) - Scratch Baked Goods

*[Rooted Ice Cream](#) - serving up plant-based ice cream in a sustainable way

[Sinful Sweets Chocolate Company](#) - Traditional chocolates, cupcakes, and Dough-licious products

*[Stickler's Ice Pop Co.](#) - All natural, small batch popsicles made in Pittsburgh

*[The Cakery](#) – Specializes in baked goods from scratch, including keto/diabetic friendly desserts

*[The Smokey City's 412 BBQ/Uncle Jammy's Sauces](#) - Small batch, all-natural BBQ Sauce and Dry Rubs

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

Alcohol Vendors

[Boyd & Blair](#)

[Christian W. Klay Winery](#)

[Country Hammer Moonshine](#)

[Greendance Winery](#)

[Hitchhiker Brewing Co.](#)

[Laurel Highlands Meadery](#)

[Lawrenceville Distilling Co.](#)

[Liberty Pole Spirits](#)

[Maggie's Farm Rum](#)

[McLaughlin Distillery](#)

[Quantum Spirits](#)

[R Wine Cellar](#)

[Ridge Runner Distillery](#)

[Sturges Orchards](#)

[Threadbare Cider & Mead](#)

[Wigle Whiskey](#)

[Wines of America](#)

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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