

EVENT PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Unicoi Farmers Market Announces New Opening Date; July 7

Unicoi, Tenn. -- The Unicoi Farmers Market and Community Yard Sale will open July 7 in its new home under the Buffalo Pavilion at the Unicoi Visitor Center. The market was originally scheduled to open in June, but was delayed because of a spike in COVID-19 cases within the county during that time.

The market will be held every Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tourist Information Center at exit 32 (off I-26), as long as Coronavirus cases remain at a minimal level. New COVID-19 regulations will be in place to protect the public.

COVID prevention measures include required masks, hand-sanitizer at entrance, one-way traffic, disposable food-gloves for testing ripeness of produce, additional space between vendors and customers, and request for exact or small change.

“We’re glad we can finally open the market safely,” said Town of Unicoi Mayor Johnny Lynch. “But we will continue to monitor the COVID crisis and adjust our plans as needed throughout the season.”

The market will include fresh fruits, vegetables, and baked goods, as well as local craft vendors, and yard sale bargains. Picnic tables surrounding the complex will be spaced well more than 6 feet apart so visitors can browse the booths, grab some fresh food then enjoy lunch with a view.

“The community has been eager for the market to open since many participants depend on this weekly event to supplement their income or small business,” said Communications and Programs Director Ashley Shelton. “And we’re happy we can now give them that opportunity again.”

Vendor pricing is based on categories. Farm products, prepared food and handmade crafts require a \$5 annual market fee. Yard sale booths and demonstration spaces are free but an application must be submitted. Only one application per season is required and vendors may then call each week to reserve their space by phone. Booth spaces are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Tents, tables, chairs and other equipment will not be provided so please make necessary arrangements prior to the market opening.

For more information or to become a vendor, please email recreationaide@unicoitn.net or contact Patricia Bennett at (423) 735-0517. Vendor applications are available online at unicoitn.net under the event tab. The Unicoi Farmers Market and Community Yard Sale is held at the Tourist Information Center located at 106 Unicoi Village Place, in Unicoi, Tenn.

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