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# Wellington Farmers Market opens with ballpark theme

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LOCAL, NEWS

## Staff Report

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Vegetables are sold at the Hook's Greenhouse stand at the Wellington Farmers Market.

Courtesy photo

The Wellington Farmers Market will launch its 2017 season from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, June 16 on Willard Memorial Square.

“Take Me Out to the Ballgame” is the opening day theme. There will be ballgame giveaways, a pitching game for kids, base running and peanut counting contests, and the ballpark staple of popcorn for every visitor.

The market will operate from 5-7 p.m. each Friday through Oct. 13.

It is one of several projects undertaken by THRIVE! Southern Lorain County, a health collaborative whose mission is to reduce the risks of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity in the region by providing affordable opportunities to live healthier through improved nutrition, increased physical activity, and informed behavioral health.

One of THRIVE!'s goals is to expand the market and to educate consumers about the health benefits of eating more fruit and vegetables.

"We're one of a few farmers markets in all of southern Lorain County," said Wellington Farmers Market manager Betsy Varndell. "We're proud to support our local growers. Nothing can compete with the fresh, old-fashioned tastes of homegrown tomatoes, corn, zucchini, green beans, and other produce. We're also pleased to have vendors who sell homemade pies and breads, top-quality honey and other goods."

Dave Lengyel, a key organizer of the market, has scheduled live music throughout the summer, including bands Original Crank, Dave Parsh, Starship Truckers, and K.K. Farnsworth. Lengyel himself will perform on opening day.

The Wellington Farmers Market offers incentives to help residents of all ages fulfill their fresh fruit and vegetable needs.

The Lorain County Office on Aging will distribute \$50 worth of coupons to seniors to be able to purchase produce and honey. An announcement will be made soon as to where seniors may pick up coupons, which will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

All market vendors are asked to accept EBT (Ohio Direction) cards.

The market also offers dollar-for-dollar (up to \$10) Produce Perks. For each dollar a family spends at the market with an EBT card, they will get a matching dollar in tokens to spend on fresh fruit or vegetables.

Well-Help, Wellington's food pantry, has provided qualifying families with \$20 lunch vouchers for their children. THRIVE! Southern Lorain County is providing an additional \$10 voucher to families who have redeemed their Well-Help vouchers to purchase produce. The \$10 voucher will accompany each child's lunch voucher.

The Wellington Farmers' Market is seeking vendors for the 2017 season. For information about booth costs, types of food and products allowed, as well as regulations, email [wellingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:wellingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com) or visit [www.wellingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://www.wellingtonfarmersmarket.org).