

NEWS

Change of season means move for Farmers Market

Written By: By Jeff Kiger jkiger@postbulletin.com | Nov 2nd 2018 - 8pm.



Susan Waughtal, of Squash Blossom Farm near Douglas, sets up her area Friday in preparation for the first indoor farmers market of the season at Graham Park in Rochester. Squash Blossom Farm will be one of four concession vendors at the market.

Temperatures are dropping as autumn rolls into Southeast Minnesota, and that means it's time for an annual migration.

The Rochester Farmers Market on Saturday is migrating indoors to two buildings on the Graham Park fairgrounds.

The market's 35 to 40 vendors will be selling seasonal vegetables, fruits and meat from 9 a.m. to noon in buildings 31 and 35.

Market manager Jessica Joyce said that shoppers will find "a good consumer feel" that is even better than in previous years.

Olmsted County has installed new bathrooms as well as a small elevator to allow the market to use the mezzanine level of Building 31. That opens up the possibility of a more craft-focused holiday shopping area on that level.

Hungry Saturday morning shoppers will also find more concession choices in a cafe-like setting.

The line-up includes summer market favorites Le Petit Café, of Rochester; Infuzn Foods, of Pine Island; and Crêpe Jean Luc, of Winona.

Plus a well-known local ag vendor – Squash Blossom Farm – is stepping up to quiches, soups and other hearty fare as a concession vendor.

The growth of the Rochester Farmers Market follows a national trend. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that 8,735 markets were active in 2017 compared to 6,132 in 2010.