

# Farmers market looks to grow

By LOUISE WREGE - HP Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 6:00 am

BENTON HARBOR - The Benton Harbor Farmers Market will be more than a place to buy fruits and vegetables this year, said market master Nicki Britten.

She said the market will open July 9 at City Center Park with a Tailgate in the Park theme, which will include lawn games and cooking presentations. The market will run from noon to 5 p.m. every Wednesday through October.

"We want people to play and hang out in the park so it's more of a community event," said Britten, who is also the director of community health planning at the Berrien County Health Department. "It's going to be a place to be rather than just a place to shop."

Britten said the extra activities were made possible through a \$1,000 grant the market received from the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors earlier this year.

"In the past, we've done cooking demonstrations and samplings, but this year because of the grant, we will do them every week," she said.

Vendors interested in selling their produce at the market can call Britten at 927-5607.

Britten said the Benton Harbor Farmers Market is the only local market that accepts Bridge cards. She said the market will match Bridge card money up to \$20.

To help kick off the season on July 9, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and the Benton Harbor Community Development Department are co-hosting a booth called "Our Place, Benton Harbor."

Ryan Soucy, associate planner with the planning commission, said the booth will have fun activities for residents to participate in, with the goal of finding out how residents believe the community improve.

"We want to find visions of what Benton Harbor could potentially be," he said. "We want people to



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Farmers set up at the farmers market in downtown Benton Harbor several years ago. This summer the market will run from noon to 5 p.m. every Wednesday through October.

create great, vibrant places."

Britten said the Benton Harbor Farmers Market has been around for more than 20 years. This is the fourth year it has been at City Center Park.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege