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Downtown Farmers Market Returns to Clinton Square One Week from Today
44th Annual Season Opens Next Tuesday, Continues Weekly through October 11,
Featuring Dozens of Regional Farmers and Produce Dealers

Syracuse, NY – Next Tuesday, June 14, at 7:00 am, dozens of the region’s best farmers and produce dealers will converge on Clinton Square to kick off the 2016 Downtown Farmers Market Season. The 44th annual season of the Downtown Farmers Market is presented by the Downtown Committee of Syracuse, Inc., and continues in Clinton Square every Tuesday through October 11 from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, rain or shine.

The Market offers access to fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, plants, flowers, baked goods, wine and more – all while encouraging a sense of community. As the growing season continues, The Market brings in as many as 50 regional farmers providing some of the freshest, healthiest produce available in Central New York.

“The Downtown Farmers Market has been a longtime source of locally-grown foods for the community,” said Charles McFadden, market director. “Downtown residents and employees often tell us how much they look forward to visiting the Market each week. Visitors are excited about getting access to fresh, healthy foods that are grown by family farm operations. The Market also provides great exposure for farmers, who get more visibility and repeat customers as a result.”

The Downtown Committee will continue programs and partnerships established during the 2015 Market season to promote wellness and healthy living. Market-goers can look forward to the return of cooking demonstrations, presented by the Food Bank of Central New York, showing visitors how they can prepare their fresh market purchases. Cornell Cooperative Extension will also return, serving tasty samples of healthy recipes. Meanwhile, the Onondaga County Public Library will continue to produce and distribute weekly recipe cards calling for fresh produce and ingredients purchased at the Downtown Farmers Market. **New for the 2016 season**, the Onondaga County Public Library will have a booth at the Market (set up near the flagpoles). Staff will host fun, arts and crafts related activities for children and their families, as well as bring a mobile book cart, encouraging market-goers to check-out books on site.

“We are excited to continue our community partnerships to encourage healthy living and wellness, as well as promote the Market as a family-friendly event,” said Merike Treier, executive director of the Downtown Committee. “The Downtown Farmers Market not only offers an open air alternative to shop for fresh produce, it also provides a glimpse into the vibrancy and resurgence activity happening throughout Downtown Syracuse.”

The Downtown Committee will continue to hold free drawings for fresh produce and unique items donated by farmers, as well as offer early-bird incentives for visiting the Downtown Farmers Market early in the day. The first 50 visitors to display a proof-of-their purchase(s) at the Information Booth between 7:00 am and 10:00 am will be rewarded with a surprise gift. Keeping with tradition, market visitors may choose to purchase a reusable Downtown Farmers’ Market tote bag to carry their purchases.

As always, Market visitors can look forward to musical performances from local and regional groups during select weeks. **On Opening Day** next Tuesday, visitors will be treated to the sounds of Tom Gilbo and The Southern Comfort Band at 12:00 pm.

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The community is encouraged to stay in the loop with all things related to the Downtown Farmers Market by subscribing to the Downtown Committee's weekly Farmers Market Newsletter. The electronic newsletter is distributed every Monday during the Market Season, providing a rundown of the produce that is currently in season, as well as what to expect on the following Market Day. If you'd like to receive weekly updates, send an email to mail@downtownsyracuse.com.

Please visit www.downtownsyracuse.com/farmersmarket for more information about the Downtown Farmers Market. You're encouraged to join the conversation by following the Downtown Committee on Facebook ([Downtown Syracuse](#)), Twitter ([@downtownSYR](#)) and Instagram ([downtownsyracuse](#)).

About the Downtown Committee of Syracuse, Inc.

The Downtown Committee of Syracuse, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit, professional downtown management organization representing all property owners and tenants within the central business district. The Downtown Committee undertakes programs to improve downtown's image, strengthen its economic base, increase its attractiveness, and assure that it's clean, safe and accessible. For more information, visit www.downtownsyracuse.com.

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