

# The Township Journal

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### Sparta Farmer's Market opens on Saturday

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Local growers will offer a variety of seasonal goods, By Laurie Gordon

SPARTA — It's opening day for the Sparta Farmer's Market this Saturday, May 14.

Starting at 9 a.m., the 2011 market will kick off at the Sparta Municipal Building parking lot located at 65 Main Street in Sparta. This grass-roots-initiated farmer's market aims to connect local people directly with local producers as well as provide education, farm tour, cooking demonstrations and community outreach programs. In addition, in accordance with the "think globally, act locally" school of thought, it aims to bring business to local farmers.

Early season produce will be available with promise of much more to come as the vegetables grow and warmer weather arrives. The market will also feature natural meats, pork, beef, lamb, chicken, duck and eggs as well as pastries and baked goods, coffee, tea and other beverages and starter plants, flowers of all types and bedding plants.

There will also be wine and cheese.

Sparta residents Mitch Morrison and Ben Del Coro got together last year with the idea of starting the market. "We felt it was the exact right time to do this in Sparta," said Morrison, "There are an overwhelming people in the area who: one, want to eat healthier foods that do not have to travel 3,000 miles to our table; two, want to know exactly where our food is grown and made; and three, want to support of local economy." He added that the market's vendors were chosen to provide a variety of goods produced locally.

Opening day will also feature recycling of used batteries, the collection of used clothing for local charities and Porchlight CFL lightbulbs will be given out.

