



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Gary Mack or Wes Bleed**

February 8, 2012

630-357-7552

**Farmers Market returns to Elmwood Park**

*Runs from late May through October*

ELMWOOD PARK – The Village of Elmwood Park will have a full season of Farmers Market events this summer, Village President Pete Silvestri announced. The Farmers Market will be held on Sundays, once in May and twice per month from June through October. Vendors will set up in Central Park at Fullerton Ave. and North 75th Ave.

“We don’t use any corporate farms. They have to be real farmers from within 150 miles of Elmwood Park,” coordinator Meredith Conn said. Conn, Nutrition Professor at Dominican University, ran the Oak Park Farmers Market for 6 years.

“We are trying to increase access to locally and sustainably grown produce,” Conn explained. “We’re also trying to help Midwestern family farms and do what we can to promote healthy food choices amid the growing problem of obesity.”

Conn said Elmwood Park had two trial dates last fall, and they were so successful that village officials decided to expand to a full schedule this year. Vendors include growers of fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers and hanging plants. Specialty items such as cheeses, honey and chocolate cherry products also will be sold.

“We’re hoping to have some live local entertainment and cooking demonstrations featuring chefs from local restaurants,” Conn said. “We really want to make it a community event.”

The Elmwood Park Farmers Market will be held on Sundays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. so as not to compete with nearby farmers markets on Saturdays. “We hope to attract residents before or after church services,” Conn said.

Dates for the 2012 Farmers Market: May 27, June 10 and June 24, July 8 and July 22, August 12 and August 26, September 9 and September 23, October 7 and October 21.