



Farmers' Market ready to launch 2013 season in Elmwood Park

Taste of Elmwood Park attracting numerous local restaurants

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ELMWOOD PARK – The village's Farmers' Market returns to Central Park this summer, opening Sunday, May 26, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. A community bike ride will take place that morning beginning at 9 a.m. at Central Park Gazebo and follow the south side bike path, returning to the park for the Farmers' Market.

"I couldn't be more excited about the prospects for this year's Farmers' Market," coordinator Meredith Conn said. "We'll have booths, tables and stands filled with all kinds of fruits, vegetables, meats, some prepared foods and tasty treats."

Conn said that once again, growers from Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan will participate, bringing in a bountiful mix of fresh produce, whole organic grains, cheeses, salsas and jams. "We had such a tremendous turnout last summer. I expect we'll see even more folks stopping by to shop and take in the fun atmosphere."

The Farmers' Markets will be held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from June through October.

Meanwhile, Village President Angelo "Skip" Saviano told the Village Board Monday that there is a significant increase in the number of local restaurants that plan to participate in this summer's Taste of Elmwood Park. The three day food festival runs August 16, 17 and 18.

"We've received commitments from so many of the great restaurants throughout town," Saviano said. "This will truly be a taste of what our local food establishments have to offer."

Saviano said it's important to boost local participation as the village prepares for its 100th celebration birthday next year. "We really hope to celebrate in a big way, and local involvement will play an important role in that."

Another sure sign of summer is the opening of Elmwood Park's Aquatic Center. The outdoor zero-depth pool and playground area opens Saturday, June 1, and will remain open through Labor Day weekend. Last year's attendance was up dramatically over the previous year, partly due to the sizzling hot temperatures but also to the expanded hours at the pool.

The Aquatic Center is open to the public from Noon until 8 p.m. Sundays through Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays during the summer. Individuals and families can take advantage of significant savings by purchasing season pool passes. While the pool is intended mainly for Elmwood Park residents, non-residents are admitted every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

In other news, the village is looking for feedback from residents to the new LED street light pilot project. New LED lights are now in place in street lights along 75th Court and 76th Avenue from Armitage to Fullerton. Residents are encouraged to fill out the LED lighting survey on the village's website, www.elmwoodpark.org. The feedback will be helpful in determining whether to expand the program to other areas throughout the village.