



## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## **Bristol's Farmers Market Returns to Downtown for the 2020 Season on June 20 With Social Distancing Guidelines**

(BRISTOL, CT June 17, 2020) – The City of Bristol is proud to announce opening day of the 2020 season of the Bristol Farmers Market to be held in Downtown Bristol at Centre Square (across the street from City Hall) is Saturday, June 20, 2020 from 10am-1pm. The market will continue each Saturday through October 31, 2020.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has deemed farmers markets an essential activity, allowing the Bristol Farmers Market to continue this summer as an access point to provide a safe and reliable nutritious food source to the community.

“Providing a sense of normalcy for our community, while also incorporating safety protocols that both vendors and customers will have to follow, were important factors in making the decision to move forward with the 2020 season of the Farmers Market,” stated Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu.

The safety of the vendors and the customers who will be shopping at the market is a priority. The City is working with the State Department of Agriculture and the Bristol-Burlington Health District to understand what we need to do to hold the market while adhering to health and safety guidelines. The guidelines are posted to the Bristol All Heart Farmers Market web page (<https://www.bristolallheart.com/farmersmarket>) along with a weekly vendor list for the community's convenience so they can plan their shopping each week.

“We are excited to be able to hold the Farmers Market again this year to give the community an additional place to shop for healthy food here in Bristol,” stated Dawn Nielsen, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist for the City of Bristol. “We appreciate the support of our vendors and have been working with them for the last two months to ensure a safe shopping experience for all.”

“Many nearby farmers markets have decided to not move forward this year and we are happy to welcome those communities to shop at the Bristol Farmers Market, giving them an opportunity to support local vendors,” stated Councilman David Preleski.

Products range from farm fresh vegetables, fruits and products from local farms; to hand-made beef jerky; to baked goods, coffee, maple syrup and other locally-produced products. Some new additions to this year's market will be Oma's Pride, offering all natural pet food products; Amazing Love Farm, offering plant-based organic farm snacks; Doc Popcorn will be selling a variety of popcorn flavors using high-quality ingredients that are free of trans fats, MSG, artificial colors and preservatives; and Gulf Shrimp from Southington will be offering a variety of fresh and frozen seafood. Weekly food trucks will be selling food which will range from BBQ to freshly-made donuts. Free musical entertainment will be a staple of the market once again this year.

“We are happy to welcome back vendors from previous seasons and excited to welcome new vendors as well. We believe this year's Farmers Market will fill a much needed access point to healthy food for Bristol and surrounding communities,” stated Justin Malley, Executive Director of Economic & Community Development for the City of Bristol.

The City of Bristol Farmers Market is recognized by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture as accepting payment vouchers from the Women, Infants, and Children Farmers Market Nutrition Program and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. All participating farms are certified by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

For more information, to stay up to date on weekly vendors and entertainment, and to view a video about Bristol's Farmers Market, visit: [bristolallheart.com/farmersmarket](http://bristolallheart.com/farmersmarket)

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