

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013 A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 108

Thursday, June 4, 2015



## Daily Bread to close at month's end

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
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The Willits Daily Bread hot meals program is – at this point – planning to close at the end of June, board President Eric Glassey said Tuesday.

Daily Bread was given three months' notice by its landlord, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, at the end of April. The deadline to vacate the kitchen is July 1, but Glassey said the program would need a couple of weeks to move out after closing.

In a statement in early May, the church Parish Council said:

"After more than 20 years of accommodating the Willits Daily Bread meal program in our parish hall, St. Anthony's church is asking that Willits Daily Bread find a new home. Due to many reasons, both from within the parish and from the program itself, we are terminating their tenancy. If you are a church or an organization that could provide them with another location, please consider offering them your space."

Director Cindy Savage and members of the board of directors have been looking for an appropriate place for the "soup kitchen" to move to, but "we're not finding anything," Glassey said. "The combination of

Read the rest of **Daily Bread** |  
Over on Page 11

## Failure to send out Williamson Act statements may have cost the county tax revenues

Dan McKee  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mendocino County may have lost "considerable" tax revenue due to its failure to mail out reporting statements regarding continued land use for the past six years, according to a county grand jury report.

In 1965, the State of California enacted the California Land Conservation Act, also known as the "Williamson Act," for the preservation of prime agricultural land. Mendocino County passed its own version of the measure in 1970.

The Williamson Act allows landowners to voluntarily contract to limit use of their property to agricultural purposes if it is in an agricultural preserve. In exchange, they receive a property tax discount of 10 to 95 percent.

Read the rest of **Williamson** |  
Over on Page 15



Photo by Maureen Moore

## Double 'Sun Halo' Rainbow

Beautiful sky impresses locals lucky enough to catch a glimpse

Willitsians everywhere were looking skyward Wednesday afternoon when a halo caused by tiny ice crystals contained in high cirrostratus clouds presented a beautiful double rainbow around the sun. The phenomenon is also called a "sun halo" or a "22 degree halo," because the ring becomes visible to the eye as the sun refracts through the crystals at a 22 degree angle. The halo was reportedly visible in Lake, Sonoma and Siskiyou counties, too.



Photos by Maureen Moore

Above: Braydan on Crystal and Rylee on Casey pose with Grandpa Jim Bean at the Willits Horseman's Arena. Below, from left: Junior member Samantha Arms is ready to sell tickets! Rylee with her horse. Bean helps ready the picnic area for the event.



## Horseman's Playday & Barbecue

Annual event this weekend with gymkhana on Saturday, rodeo and barbecue on Sunday



Braydan and Rylee ride in the arena.

Come on down to the Willits Horseman's Arena this weekend and take part in the fun. Saturday will be the gymkhana, starting at 9 am. Sunday will begin with jackpot roping at 9 am, the beef barbecue will start at 11:30 am, and the rodeo is set for 1:30 pm.

Events are free to attend, with the exception of the barbecue. Barbecue tickets are \$13 for adults and \$5 for children.

For more information about the gymkhana, contact Kathryn at 489-6565. For information about the rodeo and jackpot roping, contact Jim at 354-1624 or Robbie at 489-0476.

## Grand jury report blasts Family and Children's Services

Dan McKee  
Reporter  
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Despite efforts of a "dedicated, caring, hardworking staff," the county's Family and Children's Services division remains "one of the lowest-scoring child protective services agencies in the State of California," according to a new Mendocino County grand jury report, and "the agency appears to be falling further behind."

"Understaffing [is] the main culprit," the report concludes, but almost no one escapes criticism, including the county's Health and Human Services Agency (of which Family and Children's Services is a division), Chief Executive Officer Carmel Angelo, and the board of supervisors.

The understaffing has many causes, the grand jury believes: noncompetitive compensation, work overload, poor management, and low morale. "Senior management is aware of the issues and their consequences," the report chides, "but has failed to address them."

A number of people interviewed by the grand jury "expressed grave

Read more of **FCS** |  
Over on Page 13

## Local hospitality owners differ on bed tax

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

Two motel owners in Willits have differing opinions on doubling the bed tax as part of a recent effort to change the management structure of the county's Business Improvement District, or BID.

Over the past six months, an ad hoc committee of the board of supervisors has met with a group of important players from the Mendocino County Lodging Association and the Mendocino County Promotional Alliance with the purpose of fixing the governance of the BID.

After months of negotiations, the committee agreed to completely overhaul the BID's organizational structure. Instead of three boards from the different organizations constantly convening to pass each activity proposed by one or the other of them, the ad hoc committee agreed that the BID needs to have one governing body, that Visit Mendocino

Read the rest of **Tax** |  
Over on Page 11

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Happy at Willits Elementary Charter School

To the Editor:

Dear Willits citizens: My name is Silmarien A. Parker. I am 9 years old and go to Willits Elementary Charter School. After about three months of going to WECS, I am already turning in eight-paragraph essays and writing my own sheet music!

I was not asked to do this by my fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. B: I did it independently! I may have learned some from other schools, but not enough to write music and so many paragraphs of writing. I even learned how to play the ukulele. I have to admit I have never been more welcome at any other school! Sincerely,

Silmarien Parker, Willits

## No to ranching subsidy

To the Editor:

As the former owner of a successful business in Mendocino County, I never received so much as a thin dime of public subsidy from the county; indeed, I had to pay many county fees just to open my doors. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining; this is the way it should be in a free market economy.

Yet, there is one industry in our county that seems to think that it is entitled to a public subsidy, and that is the ranching industry. Currently Mendocino County has a contract with the USDA Wildlife Services for \$142,356 to kill wild animals that are just trying to earn a living in their natural habitats which have been overrun by ranchers and their livestock. In 2012 alone, 459 wild animals were killed, including 126 coyotes, 25 bears, six bobcats and five mountain lions.

In essence, for the benefit of a few private ranchers, the public is being fleeced to pay for the slaughter of wild animals that belong to the public trust. This is wrong on both economic and ecologic grounds. There are much more effective and less costly – non-lethal – predator control methods that ranchers could use to protect their livestock, so, in effect, most of these wild animals are being killed needlessly.

The county's contract with Wildlife Services is coming up for renewal, and the ranchers – those icons of rugged individualism – are whining loudly demanding the continuation of their public subsidy. I urge everyone who cares about wildlife to contact your county supervisor and ask that they terminate the Wildlife Services contract (<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/cgi-bin/feedback>). Just say NO to killing our wildlife for welfare ranchers.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville

## Thanks from Healthy Family Fair

To the Editor:

Our community is amazing! This last Sunday we had a great turnout for the Healthy Family Fair at Recreation Grove Park. Avenues to Wellness joined with the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital to offer the fair after the semi-annual WHAT walk. This free fair offered blood sugar testing, delicious food samples prepared by HMM Executive Chef Kyle Evans, and lots of opportunities to move your body and have fun with your neighbors.

Numerous people from the community volunteered assistance for various tasks, and North Coast Opportunities sponsored most of the cost of the event. Keith Johnson generously provided most of the setup and heavy lifting. We want to give a big thanks to the local AmeriCorps volunteers who helped to make this day a resounding success, with their fun circuit of fitness games for kids.

Little Lake Clinic presented dental health information by their always-delightful Tooth Fairy, Zumba, Qi Gong, and a bounce house borrowed from Yokum's Body Shop provided enjoyable ways to spend the afternoon.

Free vegetable starts from Commonwealth Garden were available to delighted fair attendees. Cal Fresh offered information and incentives for healthy eating. The Mendocino County Animal Control came with two adorable pups looking for a home. And, we at Avenues to Wellness are already looking forward to next year's fair.

Doreen Blumenfeld, Avenues to Wellness

## Emandal Chorale says thanks

To the Editor:

To the people of Willits and beyond: "It was so much fun," said many of the members of the Emandal Chorale of our 20th Anniversary Celebration. Our audience seemed to express the same thought when we joined together after the "Concert of Peace" presented at the Little Lake Grange on May 16.

We are also saying, "Thanks so much." It took the hands and skills of many to allow us to sing the songs we love to sing. If you are in town for the Willits Hometown Celebration, we will be on stage, June 25. If you wish to join us, our practices will begin again August 6. We will place an announcement in this newspaper with details.

Thanks for helping us make a wonderful memory.

Earlene Gleisner, member of Emandal Chorale

## Goodbye, Paul Lambert

To the Editor:

I read Paul Lambert's long pompous farewell in last week's issue. It is good news that "family matters call me and my wife back to Southern California." Oh dear, really, "Paul"?

My memory of "Paul" will be his KZYX programic simpler, "What's your first name and where are you from?," as though these were essential information for human expression and he had the privilege to know.

I recall his playing an extremely heavy devil's advocate in the freeway controversy, openly broadcasting, though supposedly a journalist, that he could not understand why people here continued to protest (i.e., object to an unnecessary intrusion upon our beautiful little valley, including poisonous and invasive measures in perpetuity).

Caltrans owns a quarter of the valley. Does anyone think they just want to fit in? Lambert won't care either way. He is gone and leaves his verbal refuse behind.

His farewell advice to us, again via the simpler delivery, is "try tolerance and working together." Tolerance means nothing to power. The governmental bodies were conditioned, intimidated and deceived by the Caltrans approach, and reversing course was never considered for reasons of pride. Enter unofficial citizenry.

The extensive measured efforts we in the freeway study group attempted were dismissed as "discussion on issues previously considered." In other words, fulfill a shell of formalist democracy and then proceed with said devastation.

I think what Lambert is really orating is: "Be nice, like I

am." To which I must reply, thank God fake-liberals have no power, but only citizens willing to place themselves in jeopardy against institutional force, so that their convictions cannot be ignored. We all remember when Willits was under near military occupation.

That the initial stages of the Caltrans invasion have proceeded despite citizen action is no indication of honor. The meager pro-bypass contingent was no more than identifying with daddy, no honor in that. The state monolith has no human honor or morality, no honor there. Nor really the passive citizens who think obeisance is superior adult behavior. The authorities always define social success and stature for us as politely going along with their interests and desires. (Sound familiar?)

Protesting wrong is honorable in a free society. Nor does conformity to superior institutional force achieve justice or any other kind of honorable conclusion – Lambert's pallid cliches about "tolerance" notwithstanding.

As far as the KZYX problems, at least he is improving matters by getting out. No organization with paid and beleaguered staff trying to fit volunteers into their scheme is going to escape conflict. The conflict can be resolved – if there is a shared will. Preamblements from departing twits make no difference.

Goodbye Paul Lambert, and please get lost on the way.

William Ray, Willits

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## 'You Show Me Yours and I'll Show You Mine'

Photographers Ree Slocum and David Weitzman to open June show at WCA

The walls of the Willits Center for the Arts were being hung with prints showcasing the work of local photographers Ree Slocum and David Weitzman

Maureen Moore  
Graphics & Photographress  
[maureen@willitsweekly.com](mailto:maureen@willitsweekly.com)

Monday, as the two prepared for the opening of their show "You Show Me Yours and I'll Show You Mine" this Saturday from 4 to 7 pm.

The two decided to hold the event together to not only show and educate the public about film photography, but also to offset each other's strengths, making for a visually dynamic, nostalgic and informative show.

The artists said many "little treasures" surfaced from their archives – while each was going through their own works to decide which images to print and prepare for the show – that they are excited to share with the public.

Weitzman's images mainly focus on his travels, including images from Greece, Morocco, Prague, London, France, Mexico, Nepal, Bali and China. Some California and Mendocino images are also included, but all images are shot with a variety of films and cameras he owned over the years.

Weitzman started shooting at just age 10, and one of his earliest works, titled "Still Life," is an image of a bowl of fruit that he plans to hang with his Artist Statement at the Willits Center for the Arts. Weitzman remembered shooting with a Brownie Reflex camera in his younger years, then being very excited when he received his first new 35mm camera around the age of 13.

His love of photography was fueled by his elementary school teacher, Mrs. Koningsberg of Eugene Field Elementary in Chicago, who would photograph her travels, and then showcase those images to the class during the school year. This model was one that Weitzman himself would adapt over his years as a high school teacher in Oakland and middle school teacher in Covelo.

"I was really lucky to have such great teachers," reminisced Weitzman. "They were great models, and I

At top, from left: David Weitzman and Ree Slocum hang and select works with tools of the trade at the Center for the Arts. Above: Artists Ree and David.



Above: Ree Slocum reminisces about her earliest print hanging at the show, "Castle," she shot in 1971.

At right: David Weitzman holds his earliest print hanging at the show, "Still Life," which he shot when he was starting his photography career. Far right: The poster announcing the show was positioned by Ree and David on Monday to hang in the main hall.


Photos by Maureen Moore

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## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

# Smart Sun

Sun is a 1-year-old male mixed breed dog. He weighs 43 pounds. Sun is very smart and loves toys. During his evaluation, his ball rolled under the couch and for a few minutes he got sidetracked with another toy, but when we asked him to "find the ball," he searched the whole room and sure enough he found it! Sun is very vocal in the kennel and is sure to let everyone know he is there and ready for walks, play time, cuddles or company! Training should be easy with this smart, happy-go-lucky guy. He'll do great in any loving home, but definitely needs an active lifestyle!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: [www.mendocinopets.com](http://www.mendocinopets.com) or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Photo by Rod Coats



Artists Polly Palecek and Patsy Chadwick work in the garden, accompanied by Susan Feichtmeier, a member of the Friends of Vintage Roses, and Pamela Temple, garden owner.  
Photo by Carrie Shattuck

OBITUARY

## Henry 'Bud' Crews

Henry R. "Bud" Crews passed away in Ukiah on May 18, 2015 at the age of 94. A resident of Willits for 50 years, he had been in the logging industry as an equipment operator and mechanic for 40 years. Bud was a World War II Army veteran, April 1942 to December 1945, having served in the 254th Engineer Combat Battalion – Battle of the Bulge 1945. He served in Central Europe – Normandy, France. He was a member of the Willits American Legion Post 174 for 22 years, including serving with the War Honor Guard for several years.

Bud is survived by his sister, Gertrude Yochun; nephew, Chuck (Marie) Foley; nieces Linda (Len) Valasek and Pat (Ed) Jablonowski; and many more nieces, nephews and cousins.

Graveside services with military honors will take place at 1 pm, at the Willits Cemetery on Friday, June 12, 2015.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

## The rest of Roses

From Page 5

with the couple to help with the orphanage. There are now 27 girls ranging in age from 3 to 15 at Reveil Matinal, which is still run by the Jaboisins.

Many of the girls at the orphanage actually have family, but their families are unable to support their children. Many were starving or malnourished, with emotional and health problems: Some Haitian girls with nowhere to go end up "in the woods," forced into slavery and the sex trade.

Today, girls at the orphanage are prospering, healthy, and receiving an education that includes three to four languages (Creole, French, English and Spanish), as well as math, technology, and the arts.

The board of Heartstone Village sends a volunteer team once a month to Haiti with suitcases loaded with supplies; shipments have included pajamas, solar lights and vitamins. Volunteers – who pay their own travel expenses – include college students, artists and dance teams who stay at the residence and mentor the girls, helping them with technology, art or tasks as simple as organizing their life or taking them to the beach (some have never been), teaching them nutrition, showing them how to help others in their community, and preparing them for the outside world.

The board recently bought land to build a new, bigger orphanage that will have three buildings: a residence, a school and a medical clinic. The board members want the orphanage to be self-reliant, with a garden, a well, fruit trees, chickens and goats, as well as offering classes in tailoring, cosmetology, cuisine, music, tech, dance and the arts.

The girls are home-schooled by a Haitian teacher from K-6 grades. After sixth grade the girls enter middle school, most of them in private schools, which cost around \$1,500 per year per girl, plus supplies and uniforms. Heartstone Village helps to secure "education sponsors" in Mendocino County; currently 14 middle-school girls are being sponsored.

An ambitious goal of the board, in the next year, is to create a student exchange program for the entire school year. The Haitian girls will need reliable homes so that they can experience the world outside of Haiti and gain the knowledge needed to succeed as adults, whether they stay in Haiti or go elsewhere. This will also help to reduce crowding at the orphanage.

If you're interested in being a volunteer or would like to donate to Heartstone Village, please visit [www.heartstonevillageukiah.org](http://www.heartstonevillageukiah.org) or send donations to P.O. Box 933, Ukiah, CA 95482.

COLJMN | Resendez Reads!

## Detectives with an appetite ... for crime!

Fran Resendez with a few glasses of wine. I loved the relationships that develop among these three and the fascinating historical details of the (fictional) art that is being sought.

I'd also like to recommend an ongoing series set in India, written by another British author named **Tarquin Hall**. Hall, also a former journalist, currently lives in India. His series starts with the title "The Case of the Missing Servant," which was published in 2009. There are currently four books in this series featuring a middle-aged New Delhi detective named Vish Puri, aka Chubby, who loves to eat takeout during a stakeout.

He has an affectionate rivalry with his mother, the irrepressible Mummy-Ji, who has a way of getting involved with his cases. Puri relies on a young crew of talented undercover operatives to help him – Handbrake, Tubelight, Flush and Facecream – but ultimately his own investigative instincts carry the day. These books are lush in their descriptions of Indian culture and cuisine, and permeated with wry humor. The most recent book is "The Case of the Love Commandos" (2013), based on a real-life group of volunteers who attempt to help young people from different castes get married. I'm hoping that Hall will write many more titles in this series.

Whether you read by page or device, please utilize our library system and patronize independent bookstores, both new and used.

Local poet, Fran Resendez, is retired from 20 years of bookselling at the former Leaves of Grass Books in Willits. Getting her first library card was one of the happiest days in her reading life.

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My Family and I adopted our dog, Lucky from the Humane Society in 2013. She was surrendered to the Pound and the Humane Society took her in and fostered her until we were lucky enough to find her. She reminded me of the Luck Drag-on Falcor on the Never Ending Story. She came home with us and never left. I recently had a home where a family was evicted after losing their home to foreclosure and they pulled out over 9 dogs that they could not care for. I was Heart Broken! The only thing I felt I could do was donate my entire check from the sale of the home to the Humane Society. Whether you have room in your home or your heart for a furry family member please remember The Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County.

Meet Chloe

Chloe is 1yr old female spayed, good with dogs, people, kids. No cats. Loves to play fetch. Eager to please. Chloe walks well on lead and has good manners for one so young. She's very calm and loving and would make wonderful family pet.

To adopt, or learn more information about "Milo", please contact the Human Society of Inland Mendocino County  
**707.485.0123**

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You Show Me Yours and I'll Show You Mine  
from negative to print  
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Artists' reception  
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June 6-28, 2015  
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The rest of Roses

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North County Center / Willits

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Computer Science	0201 CSC	201	Computer Applications	MW	8:30am-2:20pm	Beale, Edward	NCC 8010
English	0010 ENG	10	Basic Reading & Writing	TWTh	12:30-3:50pm	Schuman, Edwin	NCC 8030
	0800 ENG	80	Academic Reading & Writing	MTW	5:30-9:05pm	Cechin, Jaime	NCC 8020
	0200 ENG	200	Reading and Composition	MW	5:30-9:20pm	Hallman, Steven	NCC 8030
History	0222 HST	222	Native American History	TTh	8:00-11:50am	Siva, Logan	NCC 8010
Mathematics	0292 MTH	11	Basic Mathematics	TTh	8:00-11:50am	Dominguez, Diana	NCC 8030
	7700 MTH	77	Geometry	TTh	8:00-11:50am	Ries, Richard	NCC 8020
Real Estate	6200 RLS	62	Real Estate Appraisal	SSu	8:00-5:50pm	Gonzalez, Ignacio	NCC 8030
Speech	2100 SPE	210	Interpersonal Communication	MW	8:00-11:50am	Ramming, Taja	NCC 8020

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## 2015 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Candidates

**Dalli Fonsen, 20**  
Contact: 530-790-5421  
df713@yahoo.com

**Caitlyn Forrester, 16**  
Contact: 707-972-7803  
Facebook "Caitlyn Forrester 4 Sweetheart"

**Thais Reed, 18**  
Contact: 707-354-0784  
thaisreed@gmail.com

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# Trio of Trios

Benefit concert raises \$850 for Food Bank

Above, from left: *Twining Time* (Will Cutlip, Anita Blu, John Wagenet); *Just Enough* (Clancy Rash, Helen Falandes, Kate Black); and *Chanterelle* (Helen Falandes, Diane Smalley, Madge Strong). Photos by Kathryn Sterngold

The second annual Trio of Trios event was a great success, with a standing-room-only crowd enjoying the May 23 concert at the Willits Methodist Church.

The event was organized by Clancy Rash as a fundraiser for Willits Community Services and Food Bank, where Rash is also a board member. He noted the food bank will put the \$850 to good use in the general fund, where monies frequently are used to help replace equipment and keep up with ongoing costs associated with running the program.

Filling the bill were the groups Chanterelle (Madge Strong, Diane Smalley and Helen Falandes), Just Enough (Kate Black, Clancy Rash and Helen Falandes) and Twining Time (John Wagenet, Anita Blu and William Cutlip).

After the concert's conclusion, everyone enjoyed a party with refreshments, including drinks and desserts, many of which were brought by volunteers. Anita Blu was the sound engineer, as well, and she said the event ran flawlessly and was very successful.

"We're really hoping to make this an annual event," Blu said. "We would do it as a fundraiser for different groups, and maybe even next year we might have a Quartet of Trios!"

Rash also expressed his appreciation to community members who came out in support of the event to help out the food bank.

— Maureen Moore

## Willits Farmers Market

<p><b>Willits City Park</b>  <b>May thru October</b>  <b>Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Little Lake Grange</b>  <b>November thru April</b>  <b>Thursdays 3:00 - 5:30 pm</b></p>
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Online & Print

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## Willits Farmers Market

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 WILLITS FARMERS MARKET --- THURSDAYS FROM 3 TO 6 PM

Each Thursday from 3 to 6 pm, vendors line the north side of City Park with tables and boxes, offering tasty treats and fresh foods during the Willits Farmers Market.

It's always a good idea to get to market early for the best selection of fruits and veggies: Cherries, strawberries, lettuce, chard and other greens, beets and herbs are all available now. Eggs, cheese, fish and meats are also out on stands and ready to become a delicious meal at your house.

Ready-to-eat treats are also available, including breads, pastries, cookies, muffins and pies, and lunches of gourmet hot dogs and Venezuelan fare can make for an easy dinner.

Shopping for gifts (for yourself or a friend!) is easy, too, with artisan soaps, knitted hats and gloves, spices, oils and vinegars, and jewelry on offer. Or why not get ready for gardening season, or prep your cutlery for summer cooking, and bring your "edgy" items to get professionally sharpened by Keith Rosen. Garden starts are available, too.

As summer progresses, more and more produce will become available, but there are plenty of reasons to come now and enjoy all the goods the spring farmers market has to offer.



Above left: The Farmers Market Band.  
 Above: Lettuce and herbs.  
 Left: Fresh-baked bagels.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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