

Lowell Farmers' Market returns in new location for 2023

[PETER CURRIER](#) | pcurrier@lowellsun.com | Lowell Sun

July 7, 2023

LOWELL — The Lowell Farmers' Market is back in a new location for 2023, with hopes of eventually turning the weekly summer and fall market into a year-round event with indoor space in the Hamilton Canal Garage.

The location of the farmers' market has been moved around Lowell a few times in its existence, but Community Teamwork Inc. Entrepreneurship Director Charles Smith said that it would be in the new spot in front of the garage "for the foreseeable future."

"I promise you there will be more events, things we will have here for the kids and things for adults. It will be a lot of fun," said Smith during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the market Friday afternoon.

Farmers' markets are a common event for communities to regularly host, in which local farmers and vendors can gather in one spot to sell some of their products directly to customers. Usually these include fresh vegetables, fruits, honey from local apiaries, cooking oils and other locally made products. Such markets, Mayor Sokhary Chau said, are a sign of good health in a community, in more ways than one.

"It can go to the dinner table and it can go to the tables of local restaurants. It is really a great support and shows that the farmers' markets and economic development as a whole go together," said Chau. "The food we are buying every day has all this artificial this and artificial that, so just to have fresh food and fresh fruits and vegetables on the table is really healthy, especially for young kids."

Chau said the city is thankful for the support of CTI, which partners with Lowell to run the weekly market.

CTI CEO Karen Frederick pointed out that her organization has been putting on the farmers' markets for 44 years now.

"It is really a labor of love doing this market, and as the mayor said, promotes good health," said Frederick before the ribbon cutting.

District 7 City Councilor Paul Ratha Yem said that he hopes this new location will be "just the beginning" for the market, and that in the near future they will be able to be held year-round with the potential to use indoor space in the Hamilton Canal Garage.

Frederick said after the ceremony that the location of the market has moved multiple times for multiple reasons, like parking or ease of access for the vendors themselves. At one point the market was located on Palmer Street, which would be closed to traffic when the markets were taking place and which allowed for both an indoor and outdoor market, which Frederick said she, too, hopes to bring back inside the Hamilton Canal Garage.

“It is a rough, small space but a perfect space for small stalls in the winter if we can make this happen, so we are going to be looking at funding opportunities and how we can get this up and running,” said Frederick.

The Lowell Farmers' Market will run every Friday from now to Oct. 27, except for July 28 due to the Lowell Folk Festival. It will feature local vendors throughout the season, including Bitz N Peace, My Tiny Farm, Precious Prosper, Fresh Start Farms, Mill City Mercantile, Phalla's Farm, Flats Mentor Farm and Mill City Grows.



From left, Lowell School Committee member and Community Teamwork Inc. Vision Director Connie Martin, state Rep. Vanna Howard, CTI CEO Karen Frederick, Mayor Sokhary Chau, CTI Entrepreneurship Director Charles Smith and District 7 City Councilor Paul Ratha Yem cut the ribbon July 7, 2023 at the new location for the Lowell Farmers' Market at the Hamilton Canal Garage. (Peter Currier/Lowell Sun)



The Dragonfly Cafe gave a smoothie-making demonstration on the first day at the new location of the Lowell Farmers' Market July 7, 2023 at the Hamilton Canal Garage. (Peter Currier/Lowell Sun)



The new location for the Lowell Farmers' Market at the Hamilton Canal Garage was used for the first time July 7, 2023, with the hopes that the market will be able to become a year-round event with indoor space available in the garage building. (Peter Currier/Lowell Sun)



From left, James Tierney, Grace McKay and Jessica Wilson of Mill City Grows were selling their fresh vegetables and plant saplings at the ribbon cutting for the new location of the Lowell Farmers' Market July 7, 2023 at the Hamilton Canal Garage. (Peter Currier/Lowell Sun)