

# MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



**Public Health**  
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## Farmers Market Week



LEFT PHOTO Jenn Sheperd (left), market volunteer, and Stephanie Thauer, market coordinator, at the Edinboro Pay What You Can Farm Stand holding up a copy of the Erie County Farmers Market Week Proclamation.

RIGHT PHOTO Matthew Yelkovich (left), Director Gardens and Green Space at the Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network Farmers Market was presented with a copy of the Erie County Farmers Market Week Proclamation by Breanna Adams, director of Environmental Health Services at the Erie County Department of Health.

Erie, PA — In tandem with National Farmers Market Week, August 4 to 10 has been proclaimed **Erie County Farmers Market Week** by County Executive Brenton Davis to support and encourage farmers markets.

"Farmers markets connect people to seasonal, nutritious, locally grown food," said Leann Sestak, Program Coordinator at the Erie County Department of Health. "They are also a social hub where people can meet food growers, bakers, and local artisans. It's exciting to recognize people who help make those connections, coordinate markets, and grow food for our community."

A map of farmers markets in Erie County can be found at [eriefarmersmarkets.org/find-farmers-markets](http://eriefarmersmarkets.org/find-farmers-markets).

Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) Farmers Market and Edinboro Pay What You Can Farm Stand were presented with a copy of the proclamation to highlight their unique contribution and support of farmers markets.

**SSJNN** hosts their farmers market every Monday. It is the only farmers market in the county that matches food assistance dollar-for-dollar from SNAP, WIC, and Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers.

“We are grateful for the support and recognition of the work that we are doing here,” said Matt Yelkovich, Director of Garden and Green Space at SSJNN.

“Providing healthy food options is vital to the health and wellness of our community and the individuals that live within it. Everyone should have the opportunity to have access to healthy food. Through this farmers market, we hope to heal and empower our residents,” he said.

The **Edinboro Pay What You Can Farm Stand** is the only farm stand in the County with a unique payment model and open year-round. Its tent-and-table set up is located outside of Unity in Edinboro, 130 Meadville St, Edinboro.

In the summer it features produce such as tomatoes, corn, squash, herbs, potatoes, cucumbers. In the winter, it offers winter squash, potatoes, onions, and dry goods like rice, oats, and beans.

“There are a lot of people that don’t have access to fresh, local food, and don’t have the finances to pay full retail price for produce,” said Stephanie Thauer, founder and coordinator of the Edinboro Pay What You Can Farm Stand.

“Edinboro has been considered a food desert ever since Giant Eagle moved out. I was part of starting a Pay What You Can Stand in the City of Erie and I wanted to pilot one in Edinboro to see how it would go. I was pleasantly surprised by how well the stand has been received by customers and community growers,” she said.

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