



Vendor Spotlight
June 9, 2017

Howard County Farmers' Market

Wendy Harris

Hello Everyone,

My name is Wendy Harris and I'm very glad to be here - living in Nashville, I mean. I was, fortunately, one of the first vendors to be a part of the Farmers' Market since its Opening Day in 2008! I was actually the Market's first egg vendor. My daughter, Katherine, raised "Kat's Happy Chicks" and they were her "pets." They were fed food scraps from our kitchen table, they all roamed free, and they all had names. At the time, I raised my garden in containers since my soil was so rocky.

For the past 14 years, I worked for the city of Nashville, in the Parks and Recreation Department. Last year I retired (yeah!) and went to work for myself, on the farm. I also started keeping bees. Kat had to give up her chickens, however, when her dad started raising chickens for Tyson's. She was sorely disappointed, but is now happily raising cut flowers for the Market. She picked out her own seeds, so stop by our booth and let Kat show you her pretty flowers.

I've been involved at some level of farming all my life. As a child, I "helped out" in the family garden. We shared and traded with our neighbors - one had bees and another had milk. My garden has now expanded to one acre, but is now in the ground. It includes lots of vegetables - onions, potatoes, kale, green beans, tomatoes and okra. We'll soon have purple hull peas, pinto beans and watermelon. We also have honey and herbs.

I would love to see the Market open year-round and also evenings. We are even now planning a Tuesday afternoon session at the Market from 3 - 6 p.m. Several businesses in Nashville work 24-hour shifts, so that means many residents are not able to come to our Market on Fridays. Now, hopefully, more people will be able to shop at the Market before or after work.

I have learned that the process of learning continues throughout our lives. I started keeping bees in 2010-11, and am still learning how to care for them. We got about 400 lbs of honey from 22 hives last year. Kat has also become a bee-keeper. She has a suit and runs the smoker among other things. She goes with us to catch swarms and her only qualm is sometimes feeling a little leery of being raised aloft in our bucket truck.

Next time you come to market, stop by "Mt. Pleasant Bees and Produce" on market days and say hello!

