



## Vendor Spotlight May 19, 2017

### Howard County Farmers' Market

# Melanie Solomon

Melanie grew up in West Columbia, Texas. She is married to Jay Solomon, who is a retired production supervisor for Chevron Phillips Chemical Company. She and Jay have three children: Joey, Jason and Katy, and three grandchildren. Melanie and Jay had an unusual first meeting - they met at a little league ball game in which their children were playing on opposing teams!



Melanie grew up in a family of gardeners - parents and grandparents - so the skill (and love of gardening) was passed down. When she and Jay retired, they bought her family home place in Arkansas, and continued the tradition. Having extra produce from the garden led to making a little income when she began bringing that produce to the markets. She sells at markets in Hope, Old Washington and Nashville.

Melanie's market booth in Nashville is very diverse. She brings a variety of garden vegetables and baked goods, plus jams and jellies when the fruit trees are producing. She also makes an assortment of bath soaps, body butters (all organic), bath salts, sugar scrubs and room sprays - all made with essential oils and botanical colorants. Bees provide local honey and the beeswax is used in her bath & body products. As you can see, Melanie is a busy person! And in addition to the above, she loves quilting, crocheting, sewing and cooking Asian/Indian cuisine!

Melanie would like to see the Market become a first stop for local residents instead of the supermarkets which have few local fruits/vegetables. On Fridays, she leaves her home at 5 am to arrive in Nashville by 6 am to set up and be ready at 7 am for the first shoppers.

Melanie encourages everyone to grow something - even if it's in a container. She says gardening is relaxing, therapeutic and healthy. . . And growing a little will lead to growing more!