

Prosser Farmers Market News

Fall 2007

We hope you enjoy the Prosser Farmers Market News inaugural edition. Look for us periodically during the upcoming 2008 Market Season! We will keep you on top of news and special events, showcase our vendors and keep you informed on all the great things available at the Market. See you on Saturdays next year!

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Autumn at the Market . . . Though the season is winding down, our vendors have a wondrous array of fresh fall produce for you. Crisp apples to make a delicious homemade apple pie, amazing pumpkins to carve for Halloween, winter squash & decorative gourds. . . and remember, our vendors still have a wide variety of delectable locally grown fresh fruits and

vegetables available. As always, the handicrafts and artwork our talented craftsman produce is of the highest quality and you are sure to find that special something. Enjoy these final weeks and thank you to all who visit us each week.

Message From The Market

The dog days of summer may be cooling down but things are still "hot" at the Market. Visit us on Balloon Rally Saturday for breakfast at the Kiwanis Booth or buy some of those delicious flaky pastries paired with a cup of "something special" from Becky's Coffee Corner. Some of the specialty cheeses paired with our artisan breads and perfectly ripened fruits and crisp fresh veggies makes a great picnic lunch while taking in the weekends' events.



Don't forget the Markets' Fall Harvest Festival on October 6th. Games & entertainment, hot apple cider, free pumpkins for the kids, and lots of fun for all *plus* . . . the bountiful harvest from our own Yakima Valley.

Market management would like to thank our vendors for a great season. It's a pleasure to work with these creative, talented and extremely dedicated entrepreneurs whose products make our market so successful.

We can't forget to acknowledge the many dedicated board members and others who volunteer to keep the market running so smoothly. Assisting in the booths, helping with set-up and take down, fund raising, all of this would not happen without their donation of time and hard work. We truly appreciate all that you do. Thanks To You All!

Featured Vendor

Bug Girl's Garden



Vendor Web Links

[Durfey Farms](#)

[2 Cool Creations](#)

[Bug Girl's Garden](#)

[Visit Our Vendor Page](#)

Market Tidbits

* Market booth and vendor sales are up 28% & 29% respectively this season. A Special Thank you to all our customers for your continued patronage.

* "Market Bucks" are back! Receive a Market Buck for \$1 off a purchase with any new release movie rental at Beckys' Coffee Corner.

*During September we will be conducting our Customer Survey. Please take a moment to fill one out. Help us make your market experience the best it can be!

Where can you find fragrant freshly cut flowers, hardy perennials and colorful annuals, different varieties of fresh produce and maybe order a special flower arrangement for any occasion all in one place? That would be the Bug Girls' Garden booth at the Market!

Their affordable cut flowers and plants are a popular stop for most of the attendees at the Prosser Farmers' Market. There are three distinctive personalities that make up this family business. Gary Ballard, Ridgeview Orchard and Floral with his wife, Suni, the gardener extraordinaire; a real green-thumb (as Gary calls her) and the third component of this family business is Bug Girl's Garden ran by the Ballard's grown daughter, Stacey Gingras, along with her husband, Jon.

Gary brings a vast knowledge and experience to the family business, as an orchardist and plant pathologist/botanist, with the NW Grape Foundation Block, housed at WSU IAREC in Prosser. It was daughter Stacey though, that first decided to sell cut flowers and apples at the Farmers' Market to earn money for college, going on to graduate with a degree in Biology. While it could be debated which came first the chicken or the egg with this family enterprise, as Stacey was the driving force to start the business, Suni's green-thumb, and Gary's orchard provided the marketable products, making it truly a joint family venture. The business started with cut flowers and apples, quickly expanding to selling plants as well. It was a natural progression. As the cut flower sales increased, they needed to plant more and more, leaving extra plants that they could then provide to customers. Gary provides over 30 varieties of apples, and makes them available for sale at the market. Suni and Stacey also offer flower arrangements for weddings and other special vents. This family is very talented and they all have a vast knowledge of what it takes to have a successful and beautiful garden. While the gorgeous flowers and plants will draw you in, their knowledge and friendliness will certainly keep you coming back. Stop by and visit the "Gang" at the Bug Girl's Garden Saturday mornings and checkout their website under our Vendor Links.

Junior Vendors

If you are age 15 or younger the Market is offering an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to sell their wares. With the development of our Junior Vendor pilot program a youngster will be able to sell their produce or handicrafts at half size vendor displays, for the reduced fee of \$5.00. Is your garden overflowing or has your child created some unique craft pieces? The Junior Vendor area at the Market is the perfect place for them to make some extra cash! Children must be accompanied by a parent. Please contact the Market at 786-9174 for more information or to register your youngster and reserve a vendor space.

Special Events



Cluck Cluck Bingo Winners - Strutz was "struttin' his stuff" on August 18th and the lucky \$100 winners were Bea Dufault Soderstrom, Yakima; Alyson Beckon, Arizona; Helen Carrell, Prosser, Karen St. Claire, Graham, WA and the final winning ticket donated to the Prosser Float by a benevolent anonymous

contributor. Congratulations All!

September 29th - Prosser Balloon Rally

October 6th - Markets' Fall Harvest Festival

August at the Market

Wine and Food Fair weekend gave us gorgeous weather, our usual friendly, familiar customers, as well as many first timers, who strolled past our vendors booths and enjoyed perusing all their wares. Most fruits and veggies are at their prime during August and market visitors were treated to a great selection. Our "Peach Perfection," freshly sliced juicy, sweet peaches and creamy ice cream was, "what can I say but "Perfectly Delicious".



The "Market" is definitely "The Place to be on Saturday Mornings".

**Market Days are Saturday Mornings, May - October 8 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Sommers Avenue & 7th Street**

Come and see what we have to offer!

Our Mission Statement To establish a quality market for local area farmers and entrepreneurs to sell their fresh produce and commodities to the local and surrounding area consumers.

Contact US

P. O. Box 501, Prosser, WA 99350 509 786-9174 [Linda Hall, Market Manager](#)

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