

SO? Whatcha doing this summer?

It has been fun this past week to be stopped by locals who want to share their excitement about the starting up of the market. I have enjoyed the kinship of it, feeling the same excitement in others that we feel. As every market season does we are starting slowly... as we wait for the weather, and for the crops. But don't let the slow start fool you, we have an awesome summer planned. Starting May 24th we are scheduled to have live music every Sat. We heard from so many of you last year that there was a little something added to the market when we had the local musicians there and we agreed and are grateful that Patrick Byrnes and Dale Brown have agreed to be our "mainstays". We feel doubly blessed for Patrick as he has offered his professional advice and generosity to help us get set up. Prosser isn't short of talent, and sharing the stage a few times this summer will be members of the Valley Theater Group, as well as a couple other surprises.

While it will always be our goal to add to the success we have, the Market wouldn't be the Market without our regulars and they will all be back... Well almost all... Our Iron worker Bill McKenna will only be a guest artist this year, as he is "thinking about slowing down" – but his creations can still be purchased and he is always up for making contracted pieces. Bill has been a very active supporter of the Market and we fully anticipate that he will continue to be. We will make sure to have his contact info on our website so that you can contact him. We have such an amazing group of vendors that are like family, and we will do all we can to keep their contact info on the site so that you can find them easily. This year, we have added some "guest vendors" or little mini workshops, or conferences, or well I guess discussions to the market. We have topics like: how to plant an herb garden, grass-fed beef, free range eggs, Grapeseed oils, and much, much more. I have said a million times it seems; that the wealth of knowledge represented at the market by our vendors alone, you couldn't put a \$ value to. And we all enjoy when you come with your questions. It is our goal that this market season you will walk away learning something new, or reconnecting with something old.

While the market is going strong every weekend now, May 24th is our 1st week of scheduled events. We don't want you to wait until then to come on out as you will be missing so much – and it is possible that a surprise or two will be thrown in for those that don't wait.... But the 24th is our 1st fully scheduled weekend. The Market will be hosting a "farmgirl round up". If you haven't found your way to www.maryjanesfarm.com yet to check out what the whole "farmgirl thang" is about, I would really encourage you to do so. I spent last weekend at MaryJanes farm in Moscow Idaho with about 40 other "farmgirls", we made rag dolls and celebrated MaryJanes birthday and had the loveliest "tea party" around the plum pit. I loved sitting in the plum pit working on my rag doll, listening to stories and sitting at my feet were two of the cutest chickens... Yep! Chickens... I ever did see, those that know me – know I love chickens, while I cannot explain it, I do – (and I know Sue wishes I could explain it ☺). Farmgirls come in every shape, size, color, professions. Some love the garden and others the sewin' room. Some recycle and love the simple life and some are simply learning. Some cook or can or create the most amazing things like jewelry and soap. Some grew up on the farm and others just wish they did. Some have the most amazing Southern Accents saying things like Ya'all, chilin's and lil darlin'. So on the 24th we are anticipating farmgirls from all over the state, we will have a place for you to sign up, membership certificates ready, a few farmgirl bumper stickers as well as have additional information available to those that may need it. As an extra special treat Prosser's Cowboy Church will be hosting a gospel Bluegrass concert from 10 am-6 pm so please bring your lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets and make it a day!

It is our plan to post the schedule on the Market website www.prosserfarmersmarket.com ; please check it out and print out a schedule. Sharon Crosby of Prosser Economic Development has done an amazing job on the website, and we have so enjoyed all that she brings to the group.

We always, always have room for volunteers... you may be thinking that you cannot give your whole summer and we certainly understand that, but maybe you could come down for an hour one Saturday a month, and we could use that too. While I am on the topic, I want to point out that all the folks I work with at the market are volunteers, we come at 6:30 am to set up and we are there at 12:30 to tear down. We are there because we love it; we are vested in it and in each other. We have so much fun; we work hard and at the end of the day... and the season we are exhausted... and ready to do it all over again. So if you are thinking you could use a little "joy".. Simple old fashion Joy in your life, I invite you to join us...give us whatever time you can. I can almost guarantee you will laugh harder then you can ever imagine, learn more, and be amazed by the quality of the people and their knowledge ... See you at the Market!