2015 WSU Farmers Market Moves North on Cass
New location, 5401 Cass, needs your support!

Even as we struggle with sub-zero temperatures in late February–early March as this newsletter is being assembled, preparations are under way for the 2015 Wayne State University Farmers Market. Complicating planning is the need to relocate the 2015 market, due to the construction for the Midtown Loop, Phase III, that is planned this year at the usual location in front of Prentis Hall.

The market will relocate to 5401 Cass Ave, to the sidewalk in front of the Reuther Library, a half block north of its current location. This location provides an extended concrete pavement to set up tents and conduct business without impeding pedestrian traffic, space for vendor loading and unloading and customer parking, and a protected outdoor area for operation of an Electronic Benefits Transfer station. It is also close to where tents, tables and other supplies are stored between market days.

Unlike the Prentis Hall location, which facilitated activities indoors and under the breezeway, the new location will consist almost entirely of outdoor operations, with some weather-protection offered by the Reuther Library colonnade. This set up may challenge advance planning for workshops and demos that, in the past, were offered in the relatively more protected Prentis Breezeway, and occurred rain or shine.

As usual, the market’s opening is planned for the first Wednesday of June—June 3. However, given the unusually frigid winter, we will contact growers for their expected planting and harvest schedules, and post readers on any needed changes to the season’s calendar.

Unchanged will be the market’s continued effort to feature fresh and prepared foods, including a variety of fruits and vegetables, flowers, salad greens, herbs, berries, potted plants, and honey. Prepared foods such as breads, sandwiches, paninis, wraps, soups, salads, popcorn, and delectable desserts will also be available. We will also attempt to add more products desired by our customers.

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Food Chains documentary shown in Detroit, Feb 8
Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ representatives present

With other community partners, SEED Wayne sponsored the showing of the documentary, Food Chains, on February 8, at Marygrove College. More than 100 participants braved several inches of snow on the ground to attend.

Julia de la Cruz, a representative of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), which group was portrayed in the film, was also in attendance and led a discussion afterwards. She was accompanied by Joe Parker, Natali Rodriguez and Lucero Castañeda from the Student-Farmworker Alliance, a key partner to CIW.

The documentary highlights the rampant exploitation of farmworkers in this country, many of whom are unauthorized immigrants. It tells also of workers’ struggle in Immokalee, Florida, to end sub-poverty wages, wage theft and coercive labor practices. The group enlists food corporations to pay a penny-per-pound premium for tomatoes purchased from Florida suppliers, and adopt other practices to improve workers lives, through the Fair Food Program.

The Program now has several leading corporations participating, including Subway, Burger King, Whole Foods, McDonald’s, and Trader Joe’s. The premium is passed down the supply chain to the workers, who are paid by growers who employ them, in ways audited by an independent third party monitor.

However, to date, Wendy’s and Publix Supermarket, corporations that purchase massive

WSU Farmers
Market
June 3-Oct. 28
5401 Cass Ave.
(Front of Reuther Library)
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/WSUFarmersMarket

SEEDling
Volume 7, Issue 4
March 15, 2015

A newsletter of SEED Wayne, Sustainable Food Systems Education & Engagement in Detroit & Wayne State University

Wayne

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The market will accept cash, Bridge Card, WIC Project FRESH and Senior Market FRESH benefits. As in past years, we will match Bridge Card Benefits with Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB), as arranged by the program’s sponsor and SEED Wayne partner, Fair Food Network.

Additionally, we plan to offer the Student Advantage Project, hopefully, for the entire season if funds last. Well received by students over the last couple of years, the project gives eligible students $10 in vouchers to be spent on fresh produce, in exchange for $5 in cash.

We are also waiting to hear from partner Gleaners Community Food Bank about the Community in Season project, in which a shuttle brought to the market, seniors from congregate housing sites in Greater Midtown.

In addition to community partners named previously, Eastern Market is the fiduciary for our Bridge Card Operations and will additionally assist us by loaning a wireless EBT machine. Campus partners include the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Office of Campus Sustainability, and WSU Libraries, including Reuther Library. The market would not be possible without the help of these partners and numerous volunteers.

We seek volunteers from across campus to post fliers for the market in their buildings, assist with market setup and takedown and customer and vendor relations, and prepare lunches for volunteers. To sign up to volunteer task, please write k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu.

SEED Wayne Partners

Campus Gardens seek Participants

Student leaders of the Warrior Demonstration Garden are getting ready to replace the garden beds this spring. First installed in 2008, the beds are long overdue for retirement, assembled as they were from untreated pine boards. Led by engineering major Jake Grobbel, the team is informally advised by Aaron Martin, Senior Lecturer in the I. D. Reid Honors College.

The Warrior Demonstration Garden is located between Ghafari Hall and the Undergraduate Library. Shedding the SLUGS moniker of the last couple of years, the group has also reinvented itself as “Detroit Industrial Gardeners” or the DIG group. Advisor Martin will help them develop plans for growing the organization while growing plants, and help recruit additional students, an ongoing—but not insurmountable—challenge on Wayne’s commuter campus. **To learn more about Warrior Garden or participate in DIG, write aaron.g.martin@gmail.com.**

Separately, St. Andrew’s Garden Leader, Hope Morrow, is assembling applications for small groups to lease plots there. In its seventh season, the garden usually has about half of its participants return from the previous year. We look forward to welcoming gardeners from 2014 and enlisting them as mentors to new recruits, and as workshop leaders.

**To learn more about the St. Andrew’s Allotment Garden or if your group is interested in leasing a plot, write hope.morrow@wayne.edu. Because only groups may lease a plot at St. Andrew’s, let her also know if you wish to be placed into a group of two or three individuals.**

Above: Paul Wieske of Greentoe Gardens sells honey and related products, and eggs, at the WSU Farmers Market. Photo Credit: Jack Converse

Above: St. Andrew’s Garden sits forlorn yet ready, in a picture taken prior to start up activities during Earth Week in April 2014.

**Readers are invited to submit news on teaching, research, engagement, or operations of interest to SEED Wayne. For more information, contact k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu**
Daryl Pierson is 2015 Sustainability Warrior

Every winter, SEED Wayne profiles a member of the Wayne State community who works hard to advance sustainability on campus and in the community. This year, we chose Daryl M. Pierson as our Sustainability Warrior. For us, the sustainability concept integrates environmental, economic, and social equity dimensions, and includes community engagement.

Pierson was witness to the cycling of elements in nature early in life. His family owned a farm in South Haven, Michigan, where they lived prior to moving to Detroit when he was quite young. They raised cows, chickens, and hogs. The animals contributed to the soil and, in turn, were fed from the soil.

After receiving his BA in journalism, Pierson worked at newspapers in the Detroit area. Here, he became aware of challenges faced by the city, and, in Winter 2009, enrolled in WSU’s Master of Urban Planning to help resolve them.

Pierson took the Cities and Food class in 2010, and along the way, discovered SEED Wayne. In May that year, he helped build two beds on the rooftop of Parking Structure 5, replicating a prototype developed by Engineering major Roland Bogdani, who led the construction (See SEEDLING, Vol. 2, Issues 2, 3).

In 2011, Pierson joined the St. Andrew’s Allotment Garden, leasing two beds with team-members Antonio Wiley and Mebby Pierson. That summer, he also volunteered with Bridge Card operations at the WSU Farmers Market, collecting tokens, issuing receipts, and helping prepare tokens for the next market day.

In 2012, Pierson led the development and implementation of the pilot Market Shuttle Project, while also helping with Bridge Card activities. The shuttle connected eight senior and subsidized residential facilities in Midtown with the WSU Farmers Market. In the project, he worked closely with service coordinators at each facility and developed two routes each implemented twice during market days, August-October.

In 2013, he took over EBT operations at the market, working with Chelsea Maralson, Lydia Rennals, and Tiana Perry, who staffed related customer transactions in 2013 and 2014. Since then, he has overseen all aspects of Bridge Card operations, including the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) program at the market. DUFB matches Bridge Card spending at the market, helping increase the budgets of low-income shoppers for Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables.

While studying urban planning, Pierson also secured a Graduate Research Assistant position to staff the Campus Environmental Initiatives Committee. Led by Carol Miller, Professor of Civil Engineering, the committee was formed to address the environmental impacts of university operations. When the Committee helped form the Office of Campus Sustainability in 2011, he was appointed its first coordinator. In this position, he is tasked with educating campus community members about the environmental impact of their practices and activities on campus.

Among other things, the Office is developing a campus-wide recycling program and the coordination of alternative transportation options on campus. The Office also started the Warrior Exchange to encourage the sharing of resources, such as furniture and unused supplies, between staff and units.

Pierson’s off-campus sustainability activities include a bi-annual bike ride, and monthly volunteering with the Belle Isle Conservancy in which participants help clear pathways, and preserve natural forests on Belle Isle. He also serves on the Vision Keepers Board of the Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit. The organization’s annual conference—a local highlight—showcases local sustainability efforts and engages leaders and residents, including youth, in three days of “learnshops” and tours related to sustainability initiatives.

Daryl Pierson can be reached at ar1086@wayne.edu. To learn more about campus sustainability efforts, browse: livinggreen.wayne.edu.

Mark Your Calendars and Spread the Word

**March-April**

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<th>March-April</th>
<th>April-May-June</th>
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<tr>
<td>Check out Education Series at Keep Growing Detroit, detroitagriculture.net/</td>
<td>Brother Nature Salad Market bag pick up TBD. For info, write Greg Willerer, Brother Nature, at <a href="mailto:gweg27@gmail.com">gweg27@gmail.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/25, 5:30 pm, UD Mercy, GFL Exhibition Center. Participatory design, affordable housing. Michael Pyatok, Architect. For info: <a href="mailto:soa50@udmercy.edu">soa50@udmercy.edu</a></td>
<td>To join Warrior Garden at WSU, write <a href="mailto:aaron.g.martin@gmail.com">aaron.g.martin@gmail.com</a>.</td>
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<td>3/31-4/2, Focus: Hope Conference Center, 1400 Oakman, Detroit Food 2015, google Detroit Food Policy Council.</td>
<td>6/3, 11 am, WSU Farmers Market starts, Cass Ave.. Cash, Bridge Card, WIC Project FRESH, Senior Project FRESH accepted.</td>
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<td><strong>4/9, 5-6:30 pm, Hannan House, 4750 Woodward. A Love that is Wild. Terry Tempest Williams, wilderness advocate, activist. For info, browse: <a href="http://www.glbd.org">www.glbd.org</a></strong></td>
<td><strong>4/20, 12 noon-1:30 pm, 3339 Faculty Admin. Bldg, WSU. Place-based Leadership and the Inclusive City. Robin Hambleton, speaker. For info, write: <a href="mailto:dusp@wayne.edu">dusp@wayne.edu</a>.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4/25, 10 am, St. Andrews Garden start up work day (members only). For info, write <a href="mailto:Hope.Morrow@wayne.edu">Hope.Morrow@wayne.edu</a>.</strong></td>
<td><strong>4/9-10, 9 am-4 pm, SEEDLING, Vol. 2, Issues 2, 3).</strong></td>
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This winter, Michiganders have been hard put to find unpaved ground without the ubiquitous white blanket! It is harder still to imagine getting a bag of Detroit-sourced salad in just a few weeks’ time! But that is what SEED Wayne offered last spring, and hopes to offer this year as well! SEED Wayne is plotting with our favorite salad greens fixer, Greg Willerer of Brother Nature, to get you a half-pound bag of mixed salad greens every week, starting towards the end of April. If last year’s pattern is repeated, distribution will go on until May-end, after which salads can be purchased at the WSU Farmers Market, which starts back up on June 3. Brother Nature, whose operations are located in Detroit’s Corktown neighborhood, has been a vendor with the WSU Farmers Market since 2008, when it first started.

The project was developed to match Willerer’s early spring harvests with eager customers, and was pilot-tested in 2014. More than 40 members from Wayne State’s main campus and the School of Medicine, and Detroit Public Library, signed up. They picked up 1/2 lb. pre-packed bags of mixed salad greens each week, although a few participants reserved more than one per week!

Readers interested in purchasing bags of salad will need to sign up in advance. Priority will be given to those who pre-pay for all five weeks. To learn more, email Brother Nature at gweg27@gmail.com.

To learn more about Coalition of Immokalee Workers and Student-Farmworker Alliance and the local Fair Food Campaign, browse these websites:

- ciw-online.org/
- ciw-online.org/wendys/
- www.sfalliance.org/

Food Chains, continued from page 1

amounts of tomatoes, have refused to join the Fair Food Program. In Michigan, the Fair Food Campaign also targets the Kroger supermarket company. CIW and SFA representatives urged audience members to join the Campaign and do their part to eliminate forced labor, poverty wages, and human rights abuses faced by farmworkers in Florida and elsewhere.

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