

Council Members:
Jamey Ayers
Tim Babylon
Jason Cavey
Marlene Duff
Wayne H. Thomas

Christopher M. Nevin
Mayor



Town of Hampstead

Tammi Ledley
Town Manager

1034 S. Carroll Street
Hampstead, MD 21074
410-239-7408 Tel
410-239-6143 Fax
Hampstead@carr.org
www.hampsteadmd.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hampstead Farmers' Market Wins Inaugural "Downtown Community Builder" Award

At the Carroll County Economic Development Business and Achievement Awards for 2014, the Hampstead Farmers' Market was named the inaugural winner in the Downtown Community Builder category. Market Managers Marlene Duff and Sharon Callahan accepted the award from Jon Weetman, Administrator of the Carroll County Economic Development Department at the ceremony on Thursday, November 6th.

"When we envisioned the new Downtown Community Builder award we wanted to recognize a successful endeavor, but we were looking for more than that," stated Mr. Weetman. "We also wanted a winner like the Hampstead Farmer's Market that presents people with a fantastic reason to visit and shop in one of our wonderful Carroll downtowns. We thank the Hampstead Farmers' Market for their good work in stimulating economic development and congratulate them on their success!"

Marlene and Sharon thanked everyone who had a part in making the Hampstead Farmers' Market a success over the past five years – their vendors, volunteers, Town staff, the Fire Department and of course their patrons. During the 17 Saturday mornings the market was open from early June through September this year, over 16,000 customers visited and shopped at the Hampstead Farmers' Market, which represented a 52% increase over 2013. In addition, an average of 22 vendors participated each week, as well.

"I believed five years ago that our community would embrace a farmers' market, and it's a dream that's now come true," said Ms. Callahan. "It was wonderful to see it come about with over 16,000 people this summer, shopping and connecting with friends and family."

"The Hampstead Farmers' Market experienced phenomenal growth in 2014, not only in terms of increased customer attendance, but also in the quantity and quality of our vendors," added Mrs. Duff. "I can't count the number of times Sharon and I would stand at the end of the field and look out over the Market grounds, just taking in the experience of customers shopping and visiting with friends and neighbor. Customers didn't just shop and leave – they lingered while enjoying the music and a bite to eat. This has truly been the most gratifying aspect of the Farmers' Market for Sharon and me – that it truly has become a Saturday 'destination' in Hampstead."

"Marlene and I agree that the combination of our farm families, artisans and crafters, along with support by our volunteers, the Town of Hampstead and our great location provided by the Hampstead Volunteer Fire

Department, all combine to be the reason for the Market's tremendous growth and success," stated Callahan. The Market's operation is supervised by a volunteer Market Advisory Team, comprised of Market Managers Callahan and Duff, Councilman Wayne Thomas, media consultant Danette Camponeschi, vendor Jennie Dorrell, and residents Joel and Mary Hoskowitz. "Without the support, input and advice of these wonderful volunteers," Duff reiterated, "the Market would not exist."

Mayor Chris Nevin stated, "Marlene and Sharon had an idea over five years ago to provide our Town with its own Farmers Market. The Market is making our Main Street more vibrant through the activity it generates and just as importantly serves as a platform for the local small business owners to sell their goods and further establish their businesses. The Town congratulates Marlene and Sharon on this well-deserved award and thanks all the volunteers, vendors, Fire Department, Town Staff and patrons for making our Farmers Market a success."

The 2015 Hampstead Farmers' Market will open on Saturday, June 6, 2015 and run through September 26, 2015. To learn more, visit hampsteadfarmersmarket.com, Hampstead Farmers' Market on Facebook, or call 443-821-1339.



Standing (Left to Right): Carroll County Chamber of Commerce President Mike McMullin, Mayor Chris Nevin, Council Member Wayne Thomas, Carroll Economic Development Administrator of Operations and Small Business Development Jon Weetman. Seated (Left to Right): Market Manager Marlene Duff, Market Manager Sharon Callahan, Town Manager Tammi Ledley