

# The Montgomery Farmers' Market

*Have you visited the Montgomery Farmers' Market this summer? If so, what was your experience?*

Public comments as of October 27, 2011, 1:59 AM

All Participants



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## Introduction

In July of 2009, an Open City Hall question was asked to gauge interest in the concept of a farmers' market in Montgomery. The response showed overwhelming support for a market. In January 2010, a dedicated group of Montgomery citizens came together to organize the first farmers' market in Montgomery and in April, the Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Class of 2010 adopted the Farmers Market as a class project. The market has been held in the Heritage District on Saturday mornings since June 2010 and is scheduled to run through October 30. Have you visited the Montgomery Farmers' Market this summer? If so, what was your experience?

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As of October 27, 2011, 1:59 AM, this forum had:

Attendees:	192
Participants:	38
Hours of Public Comment:	1.9

## The Montgomery Farmers' Market

Have you visited the Montgomery Farmers' Market this summer? If so, what was your experience?

### All Participants

larry lutz in Cincinnati

November 23, 2010, 3:37 PM

The farmers' market is a great addition to the Montgomery community. Going forward I would like to see it placed in a more prominent/visible location, and operated (as possible) year-round. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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Cheryl Titko in Cincinnati

October 9, 2010, 3:24 AM

I visited the Montgomery Farmers' Market on several occasions and was very pleased with the opportunity to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables. I enjoyed speaking with the vendors and learning more about their products. Please continue the Farmers' Market!

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marlene muse in Cincinnati

October 5, 2010, 8:58 PM

I love the Farmers' Market! Thanks for giving us a venue to buy lovely fresh vegetables and fruits and meat from animals that were raised in a healthy manner. Where else can one talk to the farmers who raise such wonderful foods - and drive back home in 5 minutes?! Please bring back the Market next summer and consider locating it where it is highly visible to passersby.

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Marlene Muse

Steve Maguire in Cincinnati

October 4, 2010, 9:08 AM

I love having the farmer's market here in Montgomery and look forward to seeing it grow larger, with more vendors. In particular, I enjoy talking with the people who are actually growing the food, and what their farming practices are. Thank you to all the vendors who are making it happen!

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Corine van Dijk in Madeira

September 27, 2010, 9:55 PM

I live in Madeira, but go every other Saturday to the Montgomery farmers market. My daughter loves to join me, so she can do arts and crafts at the stand of My Little Red Haus while I do the shopping. What better way to start your weekend shopping for healthy food without chemicals and hormones. It would be great if they moved to a more visible location and got more vendors like in Madeira. I missed the ice man last weekend and he makes the best ice ever!

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Colleen Valli in Montgomery

September 27, 2010, 9:05 PM

I loved the Farmer's Market. I used it to supplement my own garden's produce and I loved that local meats, eggs, and other farm raised products are sold. I agree that a more visible location would be beneficial to the vendors.

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Karen Zanger in Montgomery

September 27, 2010, 6:21 PM

As a 22 year resident of Montgomery and a market vendor, I'm proud that my community has gotten on the fresh, local and sustainable bandwagon this summer. Thank you, market organizers especially! Can't help but think that we'll see how many of the markets that have sprung up this year can continue next year. Some pretty fierce competition has developed among the new and ongoing

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farmers markets for the rather limited number of local growers and home-based food businesses. It's likely that not all markets will return---only the ones that pull really good business for their vendors and create a fun experience for their shoppers. It seems Montgomery folks really love having this market, so I hope the city government will keep making wise decisions that will make our market even greater next season. Our city is better for having a good farmers market.

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Rod Willis in Cincinnati

September 27, 2010, 12:23 PM

I'm a big fan of the market! For it to survive, however, I think it will need to move to a more visible site (Montgomery Elementary or one of the vacant store lots would be perfect), and the city needs to allow banners and signage. The market would serve as another selling point for the city, to attract both potential residents and businesses.

Rod Willis  
Montgomery

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Name not shown in Cincinnati

September 27, 2010, 10:09 AM

My experience at the Montgomery Farmer's Market was excellent this summer. I think the committee did a wonderful job organizing it. However, I can walk there in the morning with my family but if I did not live around the corner I would probably not even know it was back behind the square. This location does not make sense. We all know that either Montgomery Elementary or between Cooper and Remington on Montgomery Road is a no brainer. I have heard the issues as to why this could open up a can of worms. Stop. Make it happen. It is a no brainer for the City of Montgomery. There is no reason why Hyde Park and Madeira can make this happen and we can't. The vendors will not come if the numbers don't go up. Belgian Waffle Company pulled their crepes for this very reason. That is a reason enough to get the numbers up! Have you tried those things? Regardless, do NOT let indecisive and predictable City government reaction hold this up. It is a simple move. Either redirect traffic around cooper and Remington or spend some time to draft the rules for using the Montgomery Elementary parking lot so that it requires a vote for type of use. This is not rocket science but it is imperative to move it. And I agree with the other comment that we need a banner up over Montgomery Road all summer. Come on, every small town in the country does this with the banner. Simple stuff people.....

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Leah Levy in Cincinnati

September 26, 2010, 9:29 PM

Hats off to the committee that worked so hard with such short lead time to put together great vendors for the Montgomery Farmer's Market's debut. Wonderful to be able to buy "real" tomatoes and other goodies. The Friday email telling who and what is going to be there is quite helpful. Be sure to sign up to take advantage of this.

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Name not shown in Maineville

September 26, 2010, 9:11 PM

I love the market. I do a lot of my grocery shopping there, and I love talking to the people and knowing where my food comes from.

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Kathy Crosby in Cincinnati

September 26, 2010, 6:49 PM

## The Montgomery Farmers' Market

Have you visited the Montgomery Farmers' Market this summer? If so, what was your experience?

### All Participants

I've visited the Farmers' Market in Montgomery several times this summer and have enjoyed speaking with the vendors and hearing about their products. I've bought a variety of items, beef, granola, fruits and vegetable, and other items during my visits. I've emailed friends about the market and put comments on my facebook page about the wonderful vendors. I look forward to visiting a few more times this season.

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William Eulberg in Montgomery

September 26, 2010, 4:50 PM

I enjoyed the Farmers market. I visited the market several times and plan to continue until the market closes. I think signage needs to be improved to announce and direct people, not familiar with the Market to the market day. They have signs placed out directing people to market, but although they comply with sign regulations, you can not read the verbiage on the sign because it too busy and too small. They are very pretty, but they do not communicate to motorists.

I liked the Bombay Brassiere booth on Saturday. I will try the restaurant because of their personal appeal to the public, and that being accentuated by the sample they brought with them and shared with market attendees.

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Stefanie Stevenson in Cincinnati

September 26, 2010, 4:45 PM

Yes, I visited the Montgomery Farmers' Market almost every Saturday this summer! I very much appreciated having the market so close to my home. The summer before, I would drive down to Hyde Park or downtown every weekend to visit their Farmers' Markets. I believe in healthy, organic, local food as a part of a healthy lifestyle! I'm so happy a group of dedicated citizens did this for Montgomery and I hope it is here to stay!

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Carol Risco in Montgomery

September 26, 2010, 4:20 PM

The Farmer's Market has been great. The location is fine for me, as I am able to walk over after my yoga class on Saturday, however I agree that a more visible location would benefit the vendors. I think the prices are fine- it is nice to be able to support local businesses. The Madeira market seems to be more publicized. Maybe a banner over the street would generate more business. Please bring it back next year. I also enjoy the newsletter.

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Name not shown in Cincinnati

September 26, 2010, 12:23 PM

I love the new farmer's market!! I bought the biggest chicken I've ever seen there, Natalie makes a wonderful cherry pie, Saladin Orchard sells apple cider that seems to disappear as soon as I get it home, and yes, it was nice not to have to wonder if my eggs were recalled or not.

I love that the vendors involve their families. I was waited on by a lovely little lady who sold me beer bread mix and eggs, did the math and gave me my change perfectly. I think she was 8.

Yes, it's small, but with community support it will grow.

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Name not shown in Cincinnati

September 26, 2010, 11:20 AM

We attended the farmers' market through most of the summer, and have enjoyed the fresh and wholesome produce and the friendly vendors. Although the meat prices were higher than at the local

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supermarket, the quality of our purchases [chicken, pork chops and sausages] was amazing; well worth the extra cost. I also found the weekly email very informative. I am pleased that our community has this high quality option.

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David Wolfenberger in Montgomery

September 26, 2010, 9:54 AM

Egg recall? What egg recall? We buy our eggs at the Montgomery Farmers Market so we don't have to worry about what hideous things factory farms are doing to our food. If we want to know we just ask the family that raises the chickens, the same people who show up every week at the market to sell it. This also applies to the vegetables and meat.  
Just one more reason this is one of the best places to live in the entire super-region.

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Teri Brossart in Cincinnati

September 26, 2010, 9:04 AM

Unfortunately, I work most Saturday mornings as a Massage Therapist in Montgomery. But on the three occasions I have had the pleasure to attend the Farmer's Market, it was a great experience. The vendors are very knowledgeable of their goods. I always learn something new. I purchased the BEST homemade pies ever there, and many other wonderful products. I like the location and think the team of volunteers has done an excellent job communicating what is upcoming at the market via newsletters on email and Facebook. However, if you're not connected to the internet, I could see where a more visual location would benefit more members of the community. Keep up the good work and I'll get there every chance I have!

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Name not shown in Cincinnati

September 26, 2010, 8:57 AM

My family loved having the farmer's market to go to on Saturday mornings. We attended a half dozen times throughout the summer. We were very happy for the most part with everything we bought there. We felt the prices were fair and were happy to spend a little more to support local farmers in return for fresh in season produce. I think the market is a GREAT addition to Montgomery and hope it stays for years to come.

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Sarah Bell in Montgomery

September 23, 2010, 9:27 PM

I love the Farmer's Market! The fruit and vegetables were all fantastic. They also had the most interesting vegetables, like unusual types of eggplants! I tried a lot and loved all of it! The pies and other baked goods were extremely attractive and tasty and I also loved the granolas. It was also so enjoyable to have the great music! The vendors were all very nice and very pleasant to talk to. My kids loved it, and they are hard to please! I agree that it would be great if it could be moved to a place where it could attract even more people, so that we can keep this going!

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Name not shown in Cincinnati

September 23, 2010, 10:10 AM

I enjoyed it, but felt it was a little smaller than expected. The fresh veggies were all delicious but I felt the fresh meat was over priced. I think if it was in a more visible site it would do better. I enjoyed running into neighbors and tasting all the wonderful foods!! Thank you for all the hard work it took to get this fun event up and running!! I hope it will be around for many years to come!!

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Re: higher prices at the farmers' market.

Prices at a farmers' market reflect the true cost of food. Prices at a grocery store reflect the cost of industrial inputs. Food in the US has become so cheap over the past fifty years -- our great-grandparents spent 24% of their incomes on food, while we average 9% of our incomes -- that Americans have lost a sense of what it takes to produce food in a sustainable way.

Raising produce sustainably (without pesticides and herbicides and genetically modified seeds) costs more. Raising meat sustainably (on pasture rather than in feedlots, without growth hormones or prophylactic antibiotics) costs more. Ask the farmer how he raises his product. I can guarantee you, he isn't getting rich. Monsanto, however, is making billions from the cheap food at the grocery store.

It's up to each of us to decide what we spend our money on, but when I buy 'cheap' food, I feel like I'm getting what I pay for.

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Name not shown in Montgomery

September 22, 2010, 6:58 AM

I visited the market once, as a general statement it seemed kind of small compared to other ones locally I have seen such as Madeira. Parking for Montgomery's market is convenient though I would echo comments from others that a more visible location would attract "passers-by". The offerings that were there were ok (fresh items, look ripe, etc).

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MM GOARD in Montgomery

September 21, 2010, 5:37 AM

This is one of THE best new experiences in Montgomery. The MCLA class of 2010 really deserves kudos for executing an idea who's time had come. It's truly a service expected in a premiere community focused on bringing citizens together. I'm glad to see the city supporting it!

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Andy Zilch in Cincinnati

September 20, 2010, 3:18 PM

We've visited 3 times since it opened; all three times we enjoyed shopping and all the colorful produce. We tried some new foods and had a good time just being in the community.

Someone commented about the prices being too high but I enjoy knowing that the little extra I pay here goes to support the people producing the food.

The only improvement I would suggest is to know more consistently which vendors would be there (e.g. Fab Ferments came once and I haven't seen them since).

I also have a few ideas that could be fun:

- 1) put together a "market recipe" with a full meal you could prepare from items at the market and a shopping list.
- 2) Ask some of the vendors to have recipes for their unique foods (e.g. what to do with squash blossoms)

I usually have a list of things I want, but don't know what to do with the items I've never heard of.

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### All Participants

I love the Montgomery Farmers' Market! When we moved here 8 years ago, I sorely missed the local markets in our previous communities. The food is fresh, local, and delicious. Several of my neighbors didn't know it was there; a Montgomery Road location such as the Elementary School parking lot would be much more visible and attract passersby as well as Montgomery residents.

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Name not shown in Montgomery

September 20, 2010, 1:08 PM

I thought the location of the Farmer's Market was quite ideal to a morning downtown with my family. We tended to go for breakfast, shop the market and a store or two (love the Little Red Gift Shop) and the kids loved the added activities like the art from Heike and the visit by Snoopy. I also liked the cooking demo and wish that happened more often.

It did seem the vendors were not consistent and I didn't know what I could or couldn't get from week to week. A schedule of items would be helpful. Also, maybe rain cancels? Not sure if that matters because rain cancels for me. It might not be worth the setup for others when the weather is bad as it was near the beginning.

Thanks for making this a special event in Montgomery. I make it a special outing at least once or twice a month for my family.

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Name not shown in Montgomery

September 20, 2010, 9:23 AM

Summers are pretty busy for our family and we were only in town for a few Saturdays. We did stop by the farmers market on one occasion and really enjoyed it. I'm sure we will be back again before it closes this fall and will be there early next spring as well. The produce was really impressive and there was some good variety of non-produce as well (granola, baked goods, etc). I also liked that the focus was on food, not on crafts, soaps, and tchotchkes. I really do hope the Montgomery keeps the farmers market and puts further support behind promoting it. Eventually, I'd like to see it as impressive as the one in Ann Arbor, MI which operates several days a week, year round.

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Jennifer Mahuet in Loveland

September 19, 2010, 11:50 AM

My daughter and I went to the Montgomery Farmer's Market for the first time yesterday and were very impressed. The vendors were friendly and knowledgeable and the products were of high quality and reasonably priced. For dinner last night we had the most delicious goat cheese with bruschetta, joking that it was so good because the goats were raised on love and sunshine :) We will be back next Saturday!

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marti Moore in Montgomery

September 18, 2010, 5:23 PM

My husband and I attended every Saturday that we were home. (gone for two in July) I also purchased all the veggies I thought I would need for the entire week. Everything we purchased was wonderful. I tried veggies that I hadn't tried before... we've eaten healthier than ever before! I would love to see it at the elementary school, lots of room for vendors and cars. I have also visited the market in Hyde Park and Findley, so I would love for Montgomery to attract The Blue Oven - fantastic bread as well as the woman from Kentucky who sells mushrooms at the Hyde Park market. (The Forkable Feast would be great too) I agree with the others who have commented, it would be a

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shame to loose the vendors we have due to poor turnout. I'm also shopping at Pipkins more than ever... don't want them going under! My only comment is that sometimes it seemed that they were way too pricey... It was a delightful way to see our neighbors, and to be able to walk to it.

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Name not shown in Cincinnati

September 18, 2010, 4:16 PM

I went almost every week, I thought it was kind of expensive but the vegetables were beautiful. The meat was out of sight expensive, so I didn't buy that, but I'm sure it was good.

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Marni Cummings in Montgomery

September 18, 2010, 2:52 PM

We also love the farmers' market, and agree that it needs to be in a location with more presence. I had a booth at the Aug 21st farmers' market and was approached by a stunned resident who had no idea Montgomery had a market. He also admitted upon my asking that he doesn't read the Bulletin. I'm confident there would be a lot more people coming if the location was moved to a parking lot on Montgomery Road.

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Nancy Nolan in Montgomery

September 18, 2010, 12:12 PM

I just went to the Farmer's Market for the first time, and am sorry I hadn't made it sooner. It offers a great atmosphere, with live music and lots of good produce and other things to purchase. I saw a number of friends and colleagues there, as well, so it's obviously gained traction since its start in June. I agree (and one vendor lamented) that it should be in a more visible location; why not the grade school lot? As long as there is sufficient parking set aside for consumers, it makes sense to have it in a high visibility area. This may be off the wall: but what about cordoning off the downtown district and allowing the market to spread out there, a la Bastille Day? Traffic could be easily re-routed, although cost might be an issue. I suspect the downtown businesses would like the energy. Either way, I'd hate to lose the vendors to other markets because they don't get enough traffic.

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Lee Anne Hilsabeck in Cincinnati

September 18, 2010, 8:43 AM

I love the Montgomery Farmer's Market and have been almost every Saturday since it opened. I agree that it needs more presence and there are a number of empty lots (including parking lots) that front on Montgomery Road which could solve this challenge. I would strongly encourage the city to move the Market to a more visible location on Montgomery Road. My biggest fear is that the Market ends up not drawing enough traffic to retain vendors. The Montgomery Farmer's Market has been a great addition to the community and should not be lost!

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Tracy Weeks in Cincinnati

September 17, 2010, 12:37 PM

I love the Farmer's Market and hope it stays for a long, long time.

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RICHARD HAHN in Montgomery

September 17, 2010, 9:41 AM

We visit the Farmers' Market regularly and buy fresh produce to last us through the week. The vendors offer products which are, for the most part, superior to those found in the larger food stores, albeit a bit pricey. We welcome the addition of this market and hope it continues.

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Raymond Miller in Cincinnati

September 17, 2010, 8:39 AM

## The Montgomery Farmers' Market

Have you visited the Montgomery Farmers' Market this summer? If so, what was your experience?

### All Participants

I think the Montgomery Farmer's Market is a great addition to our community and an incredible resource for our residents to get fresh local produce, grass fed proteins, and more. I wish the Farmer's Market was given more presence by the city, however. It should be in a much more visible location that hidden off Shelly Lane. If it was in the Elementary School parking lot for example a huge number of people passing through Montgomery on a Saturday morning would see it and stop. Plus why are there so few signs for it??

I think it deserves far more support.

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