

Editorial

Farmer's market

Meriden Mayor Michael S. Rohde announced this week that an expanded and enlarged farmer's market will make its debut in this city in just a couple of weeks.

This summer, beginning July 16 and continuing every Saturday until October 29, an expanded farmer's market will gather at Meriden Hub. From 8 a.m. to noon each week, growers, all of them from Connecticut, will offer produce to those who come to see and buy. In addition to fruits and vegetables, though, there are vendors lined up to offer artisanal baked goods, lunch-on-the-go booths and organic vegetables. Local restaurants will have a presence, as well, and there is talk of sellers of clothing and jewelry. Since electricity will be available, there may be possibility of live entertainment of varying kinds, which will be a fine enhancement when arranged.

Better still, Community Health Center is becoming a sponsor and children who come in for appointments will receive tokens redeemable for fresh produce at the farmer's market. Vendors will be some-

what different from week to week, cycling in and out, to provide something of a kaleidoscope of choices. Given Meriden's demographics and history, an excellent opportunity exists to schedule theme days at this new farmer's market to reflect Meriden's ethnic background, and Constituent Caseworker Eddie Siebert is at work on it.

We welcome an expanded farmer's market. The move underscores Mayor Rohde's ideas for the Hub, tying it to daily (or, at least, weekly) life in our city, expanding potential uses for this open area in Meriden's central point. A farmer's market, with its fresh, local produce, provides healthy and wholesome food options for residents in a convenient, congenial setting: go out and shop — meet your friends. Finally, as an open air summer market grows in Meriden, so does a sense of community and shared activity, which is very healthy for civic life and participation.

This expansion is an idea whose time has come and should be welcomed by many Meriden residents.