

# From the farm to the city

## *City Hall to host farmers market*

By Chris Sykes  
Staff Writer

The question of how to keep someone down on the farm after they have seen the big city has been asked many times, but the answer may be to bring the farm to the city.

That's why Orange will have a farmers market Wednesday in the City Hall parking lot. The market, scheduled for 1 to 5 p.m., was organized in partnership with the New Jersey Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and is available to all residents.

"Farmers markets are a wonderful way for people to buy fresh produce direct from the farm," Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. said in a statement. "Orange is delighted to hold our first farmers market and we hope to hold additional markets in the future."

One of the participants in the farm market will be the Garden State Urban Farms of Orange. Hawkins said it collaborates with schools, nonprofit organizations and government groups to provide employment opportunities and educational programming as well as food. It operates a hydroponics greenhouse in Orange, said Hawkins, where they train ex-offenders and at-risk youth in managing a sustainable business while growing vegetables for the local community.

The New Jersey Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides locally grown, unprepared fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs to eligible seniors 60 years of age and older. The program is administered through the N.J. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Senior Services.

"Farmers benefit from the programs by directly marketing their locally grown fresh produce to eligible participants at farmers markets across the state," said Hawkins. "The market accepts Senior Nutrition Voucher."

Hawkins said eligible senior participant will receive four \$5 vouchers that can be redeemed for items at the farmers market. For more information, contact Sandra Barrera at 973-266-4003.