

# Farmers market hoping for a good growing season

*Organizer John Wilkie is looking for more vendors and fun ideas.*

**By AMY CAVALIER**

Messenger Post Staff

A bus driver in the Webster school district, Robert Kuhn of Walworth started growing produce to make some extra income last summer. He signed up for the Penfield Farmers Market on Fridays and he and his neighbor combined their efforts to pull together enough produce for a vendor stand.

"Everyone seemed very eager to make it succeed," he said.

It went so well, Kuhn's adding more markets to his schedule this summer – Webster and Irondequoit. And he's growing more to meet the demand.

Last year was the first year for Kuhn as well as for the Penfield Farmers Market, being organized by John Wilkie of the Chamber of Commerce. On average, Wilkie said, there were up to 15 vendors set up in the Home Depot Parking lot in the Panorama Plaza area each Friday from the end of

## For more information

This year's Farmers Market is slated to run from 2 to 7 p.m. Friday afternoons July 13 through the end of September. Booths cost \$135 for the season or \$25 per week.

To learn more about the Penfield Farmers Market, visit [www.penfieldny.com](http://www.penfieldny.com). John Wilkie can be reached at (585) 563-1929.

July through September. So far this year, Wilkie has 11 vendors confirmed.

He's optimistic this year will be bigger than ever, and he is seeking ideas and involvement from the community to make that possible.

The kick-off on July 13 will feature the Penfield Fire Department along with other community groups. Wilkie is also hoping to get ideas from the community for free entertainment at the Farmers Market along with theme nights – such as classic cars and back-to-school. He is asking members of the public to drop by [www.penfieldny.com](http://www.penfieldny.com) with their suggestions.

Businesses in the Panorama Plaza area are hoping to



STAFF PHOTO/ADRIAN KRAUS

**About a dozen vendors set up shop each week at Penfield's Farmers Market in the Home Depot parking lot on Panorama Trail last July through September. John Wilkie and the Chamber of Commerce have begun organizing the second annual farmers market. They are seeking input from the community on how to make this year's market even more successful than last year's.**

offer raffles with prizes at the Farmers Market and Wilkie said a lot of the farmers are signing up for two booths this year and looking to bring in a greater variety of goods.

New this year will be a vendor called Artisanal Foods, which features

gourmet pastas, and Arbor Hill Winery, which will feature wine tasting and gourmet foods and jellies.

"We'll definitely be bigger this year," said Wilkie.

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