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## PRESS RELEASE

### WINTER PARK FARMERS' MARKET CELEBRATES ITS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

**WINTER PARK, FL, an internationally-recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies (April 30, 2019)** The Winter Park Farmers' Market is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **Saturday, May 18, 2019, at 10 a.m.**, at the market located at 200 W. New England Ave. What began as a small market in 1979 with only eight vendors, has grown into an award-winning, thriving market with over 85 vendors that approximately 2,500 patrons enjoy every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will kick off at 10 a.m. with remarks by city officials. A doggie fashion show will follow with limited registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. The celebration will also feature vendor discounts, door prizes, "Penelope - Princess of the Peacocks," a Family Fun Program Kids Zone featuring face painting, bounce slide, and much more. Oneblood will be on site to accept blood donations to help save lives.

In 1977, the city purchased the farmers' market property for \$250,000 with the original intention to use this site as parking for downtown visitors. Instead, former City Commissioner Jerry Donnelly suggested that the city initiate a Saturday morning market at this former train depot. Commissioner Donnelly believed an open-air market would be an excellent spot where Winter Park residents could gather to foster a sense of community. Additionally, he felt that it would attract more people into downtown Winter Park on Saturdays, which was in keeping with Winter Park's community-oriented, downtown shopping concept.

The City Commission approved the concept and policies for a farmers market and on its grand opening day May 19, 1979, approximately 10,000 people came to buy produce and plants. Now, four decades later, thousands of attendees still enjoy their weekly shopping for diverse kitchen and garden items, from bay leaves and bratwurst to bagels and butterflies. Vendor varieties include plants, flowers, produce, baked goods, and organic, locally-grown and consumable products.

For more information regarding the Winter Park Farmers' Market or its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, please call 407-599-3341.

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park, please visit the city's official website at [cityofwinterpark.org](http://cityofwinterpark.org). Like, follow and watch us on [Facebook](#)<sup>®</sup>, [Twitter](#)<sup>®</sup>, [Instagram](#)<sup>®</sup>, [Vimeo](#)<sup>®</sup>, and [YouTube](#)<sup>®</sup>. ###