

# Farmers market opens season

By Sheridan Cyr  
Special to the Record-Journal

MERIDEN — The city’s Farmers Market held its grand opening at the Meriden Green on Saturday, featuring fresh produce, craft vendors, face painting and bouncehouse inflatables for the kids.

A volunteer committee of Meriden residents organizes the market. It will be open every Saturday until Oct. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to noon with produce provided by Gotta Farm, Beckett Farm and Barbecho’s Harvest.

“The primary focus for these guys is fresh produce,” said Ed Peczynski, a member of the organizing committee. He explained that the farmers get up before sunrise, harvest produce, and come directly to the market.

“It couldn’t be any fresher unless you went to the farm and picked it yourself,” Peczynski said.

The market is designed to promote local goods, draw people to the Meriden Green, and encourage good nutrition.

New this year are several handmade picnic tables, crafted and donated by the Construction Workforce Initiative 2, Inc. of Meriden. Youth who participate in the city’s free summer lunch program will be served at these new tables.

Mayor Kevin Scarpati thanked Construction Workforce Initiative 2 and organizers.

“We want to get people out, to shop local, and to visit the Meriden Green,” he said. “We hope to see the market grow for years to come, and for people to continue to see what Meriden has



Karen D’Addario, right, picks out ears of corn with K’Nea Anderson of Gotta’s Farm on Saturday during the grand opening of the Meriden Farmers Market on the Meriden Green.

| Photos by Justin Weekes, Special to the Record-Journal

to offer.”

Vendors were eager for the start of the market. The Arc Farmer’s Market offered kale, basil, swiss chard and other herbs. The group’s farming technique uses 90 percent less water than traditional farming. They have a fish hatchery that gives off nutrients to aid the plants. In return, the plants give off nutrients for the fish, in a process called Aquaponics.

Across the way from the Arc’s Farmer’s Market was an arts and craft vendor, Carol Olsen, with HFO Connection. She sold



Carrie Teele and Dave Grodzicki chat during the grand opening of the farmers market.

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