

## Farmers Market...from Page 1A

customers opening day.

Ultimately, the reduction will allow the market to enact its most visible change with the implementation of a new layout.

Normally, vendors park on the outside of the covered sheds and set up facing inward so patrons can do their shopping up the middle of the buildings.

But starting Saturday, the market will have vendors pull their vehicles all the way into the sheds to block the middle aisles to foot traffic as they set up facing outward.

This will give customers the opportunity to walk the exterior of each building while remaining covered in case of inclement weather, effectively allowing the market to spread people farther apart as they shop, all in the name of keeping locally grown produce flowing in the pandemic.

Vendors are encouraged to wear facial covers, as are customers, but masks will not be required by either to conduct business at the Farmers Market.

“We are asking you to wear masks because research has shown that wearing masks helps to protect our customers, other vendors and staff at the Union County Farmers Market,” the market told vendors in a list of guidelines distributed May 21. “One vendor per booth should be the only person in that booth handling money, and that person should wear gloves and never handle produce after handling money.”

To encourage COVID-19 best practices, the Farmers Market will be making available a number of handwashing stations, and bathrooms will be specially cleaned to maintain sanitary conditions for vendors and customers alike, Cummings said.

“Vendors should provide hand sanitizing lotions or sprays at their individual booths,” the guidelines continued. “If you cannot find hand sanitizer, let us know, and we will help you find it.”

Importantly, Cummings recognizes that the community-centric nature of the Farmers Market is what keeps people coming back year after year – that, and locally grown fresh produce, of course.

But the time for socializing at the market is

over, at least for now, and Cummings asks people to limit the number of people they bring to the market, as well as the time they spend there.

Social distancing will be enforced to ensure the Farmers Market can continue operating during the pandemic, Cummings said, and he’s asking for everyone’s cooperation and patience as the market works to keep local farmers in business and to fill the pantries of area produce lovers.

Greens and other produce should be available during the first few weeks of the market, with a variety of other crops coming to vendor stalls as the summer progresses, weather depending. As an ag-related product, honey will also be available.

Market operations are subject to change as more data comes in and state guidelines shift from week to week. Cummings hopes the governor is able to continue opening things up in the coming weeks to safely allow for a greater return to normalcy, both for society and the market.

After June 6, the market will be open every Tuesday from 2-5 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Until further notice, there will be

no special customer events at the market, like the Honeybee Jubilee or free tomato sandwich day, and vendors will not be handing out samples.

Cummings said he understands that some people don’t feel safe venturing out into the public at this time, and that everyone needs to continue doing their part to keep vulnerable populations safe from the virus.

But he wants people to know that the Farmers Market is doing everything it can to make the market safe.

The Canning Plant will be opening up in July, and the Trash to Treasure Yard Sale that usually takes place every Friday starting in April will begin as soon as it is determined safe to do so.

Events scheduled to take place at the market prior to June have been postponed, including community events that typically occur at the end of May, such as the ever-popular Ramp Day and the Union County Relay For Life.

A list of updated changes can be found at <http://www.unioncountygga.gov/farmers-market> and on the Union County Farmers Market Facebook page.

## CodeRED...from Page 1A

back and hear the last message delivered.

Until recently, the county had been using WENS with great success since 2010 to keep people notified of extreme weather events, boil water advisories and other messages of immediate import.

But CodeRED comes with added benefit at roughly the same costs, with one of the major benefits being its Mobile Alert App that enables easy customization of alerts and management of contact information.

Another major benefit is CodeRED’s widespread use, with municipalities across the U.S. already implementing it for emergency alerts, including neighboring Towns and White counties.

The system’s popularity coupled with the availability of an app make it a powerful tool when home and abroad, as people are able to receive always-local alerts everywhere CodeRED is, which is a lot of places.

“Residents and visitors alike can receive enhanced

public safety alerts no matter where you are located via the CodeRED Mobile Alert app – a free public safety app for both Android and iPhone users,” according to CodeRED. “The CodeRED Mobile Alert app delivers community and emergency alerts to individuals targeted within an impacted geographical area so that you may also receive timely notifications when you are on the road, away from home.

“However, if you download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app, you will also be able to receive alerts via your smartphone anywhere in the country, including Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska.”

Yet another benefit comes in the form of alerts for emergencies that affect highly specific areas on the map, such as a chemical spill where residents within a certain mile radius of the accident need to be notified for their safety.

And first responders are able to utilize the app to launch notifications while active in the field, which will come in handy at vehicle crash scenes where

authorities want to warn the public of traffic conditions.

Other CodeRED alert examples include federal IPAWS messages like AMBER Alerts, weather notifications from the National Weather Service, and locally issued community alerts for things like traffic delays for area events or to relay new CDC guidelines pertaining to COVID-19.

All local first responder agencies will be able to send CodeRED alerts to people who opt to receive them, and again, where applicable, the alerts can be tailored to specific areas and neighborhoods.

People receiving CodeRED alerts who wish to opt out may call into the EMA to request their removal from the calling list, though even people who aren’t a part of the service will still be subject to federal IPAWS alerts regarding dire emergencies such as extreme weather events.

All questions can be directed to the Union County Emergency Management Agency at 706-439-6091.

## Von Hof...from Page 1A

will attend the University of Tennessee, where she will pursue an education in business and animal science, and she hopes to develop her idea more in the university’s agriculture program.

Donahue, who works as a coach for businesses when they need help, served as von Hof’s mentor, assisting her to develop a plan for her idea and think about everything that goes into a business.

“I have been involved with the INCubator class ever since it started,” Donahue said. “Every couple of Fridays we got together to meet, and I would typically give her certain things to work on and focus on, basically just questions.

“She would do great, and as this went on, March hit, and we had to move forward with the class over the phone and talk through things. I was really impressed with the students this year; all of them had great

itches and ideas.

“I was impressed with Hannah’s growth. When we started out, she told me that she was a pig shower and didn’t know about this, but she figured it all out. By the end, she knew all the numbers, and that was the most impressive, to watch her grow from an idea to really understanding how it all works.”

The INCubatorEDU program is all about fostering entrepreneurial spirits in students and teaching them how to develop their ideas by having them work with local business owners and the community on pitches.

“It’s an entrepreneurship program where students will come up with products or services for them to perform,” McCombs said. “What makes the whole program unique is the involvement of the community and businesses.

“That is the part of

this thing to me that is very special, and they add real-world applications to the curriculum. It really impressed me, and I am proud of those kids, because for the last at least two months, they never met in person.

“We tell them in the real world and as an entrepreneur that they better expect the unexpected. They got to experience all that, and they went into Google Hangout and Zoom, and they were all able to present some pretty good stuff (for their Final Pitch). I was proud of how they finished that thing off under the circumstances.”

Financial contributors and members of the 2020 INCubatorEDU Judges’ Panel were Joseph Goble from Advanced Digital Cable, David Hand from Orasi, Daniel Liberatore from Chick-fil-A, Chris Wadle from Lamin-X and Will Nelson from Nelson Tractor.

## EMC...from Page 1A

to receive ballots in the mail mid-to-late August.

For any Board of Director seat that has more than three candidates running, ranked choice voting will be used. More information on ranked choice voting is available on the EMC website.

Members who attend the

Annual Meeting will receive a registration gift. Door prizes will also be given out during the meeting.

BRMEMC employees will be in attendance to answer questions about products and services available to members. Representatives from several service industries will also be

in attendance.

Due to the possibility of the COVID-19 pandemic still being a concern at the time of the Annual Meeting, some logistics associated with the registration and voting process may be subject to change. For more information, visit [brmemc.com](http://brmemc.com).

## Wreck...from Page 1A

injuries in the crash and passed away later at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville; she was a passenger in the Jeep, which her husband James was driving, Fortenberry said.

Photos from the scene appear to show that the two vehicles collided on the east shoulder of the road, which is where the vehicles came to rest, partly in the northbound lane. Georgia State Patrol investigated the accident, though an official crash report was not available at press time.

Upon arriving at the scene, Fire Sgt. Dustin Lee – also a paramedic with Union General EMS – realized right away that Mrs. Deen was in critical condition, so he called for a medical helicopter as he and his

fellow firefighters worked to extricate her from the vehicle.

Mr. Deen also needed extricating, and once freed, Lee made the quick determination that he, too, would require transport via medical chopper.

Both husband and wife were taken in ambulances to the landing zone at Union General Hospital to be life-flighted to nearby trauma centers, Lee said, one via the Life Force service based in Andrews, North Carolina, the other using the AirLife 3 helicopter stationed in Jasper.

Tragically, Mrs. Deen died after arriving at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. At press time, Mr. Deen was believed to be in critical condition at Erlanger in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

A third vehicle was

sideswiped in the accident, and both the driver of that vehicle and the driver of the flatbed truck reported no injuries, Lee said, so they were not transported for medical attention.

Responding to the scene were the Union County Fire Department, Sheriff’s Office, Union General EMS and Georgia State Patrol.

In a separate incident on Saturday, May 30, a motorcycle rear-ended a car around 1:30 p.m. on US 129 South at Hutson Road. Marks in the roadway indicated that the motorcycle attempted to stop just prior to the crash, skidding about 20 to 30 feet before colliding with the other vehicle.

The motorcycle driver was injured in the accident, which GSP also worked, and further details about the crash were not available at press time.