

Farmers Market...from Page 1A



The Farmers Market regular season will come to a close following the final weekend on Oct. 26. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

have been in for a couple of weeks and collards came in last week. We just want to try and encourage people to try our local produce, so we cook them

like our grandmothers cook them, and we cook them with a lot of pork.

“We cook the beans with a lot of pork and the collard

greens with what we call the salt pork, or the fatback, that we use to flavor it. We are just hoping that people will buy the collards and the turnups that are here.”

Of course, Farmers Market attendees lined up Saturday to help themselves to the food, and they talked among themselves while enjoying the family-friendly event.

“This is the first time in a long time that I have had beans cooked this way,” said John Farley, who was visiting from New York. “I’m from Georgia originally, over in Ellijay, but I’ve been living in New York for the past 20 or so years.

“This is the first time I’ve been to this Farmers Market. My wife and I decided to check it out after we heard about it the other day. I think this community market is great, and everyone has been so nice to us when we ask them questions. You just don’t get that anywhere else anymore.”

The Farmers Market is nearing the end of its regular season, with one more Saturday to go, meaning one more event for the community to participate in.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the Farmers Market will hold a pumpkin carving contest that will be open to anybody wishing to join the fun.

“If you want to carve a pumpkin, you need to get here, and we will give pumpkins around 10 a.m., and they will be judged at about 11 a.m.,” Cummings said. “We will give away some prizes from some of our vendors here at the Farmers Market.”

Children who want to participate must have a parent or adult with them before they will be allowed to carve the pumpkins.

Also wrapping up its season at the Farmers Market is the Canning Plant, which only has a few more dates saved for special events.

“The Canning Plant we have officially closed, but we have a couple of special days,” Cummings said. “We will have a special day this Tuesday (Oct. 22), and then a couple more in November, one on the 12th and one on the 19th.”

Information on these dates is posted on the Farmers Market website under the “Canning Plant” link, where procedures and required items are also listed.

For more information on the Farmers Market, visit UnionCountyGA.gov/Farmers-Market.

Weapons Class...from Page 1A

education, Purcell was one of the few officers selected to travel to Israel and serve as a law enforcement exchange officer.

The training will cover “Do’s and Don’ts” for carrying weapons and provide an overview of how people can legally defend themselves and their property as citizens.

No firearm is required, and there is no fee or test for this

class, just free information.

Civic Center parking will be available, and Sheriff Mack Mason asks that attendees not park at the adjacent parking lot for the Skillet Cafe Restaurant. Parking will also be available across the road on the hill at the county permit office.

Sheriff Mason said he will be looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Tucking my garden away for winter

*Carol G. Chandler
Master Naturalist at GMREC
Preservation Committee*

Our cool, moist weather is so very welcome after this year’s long, hot summer. The soil needed protection from the intense heat. The crimson clover and purple top turnips that I planted in late summer for us, wildlife and for the soil in our vegetable garden was met with high temperatures and little rain.

In late September, after experienced gardeners and those educated in the subject had suggested, Winter Rye and Winter Peas would be worth a try; I tried their advice. I watched the weather carefully. When lows dropped to 60’s and Highs to 70’s, there was also imminent rain. So, the seeds were sown. Protecting and enriching the soil life was the goal.

Austrian Winter Clover has sprouted and some are blooming. I planted it as

a cover crop because of its nitrogen fixing roots which pulls Nitrogen out of the air and enriches the soil. The downside: one must mow the plants down while the plant is green and at least 50% have bloomed. This is so the nitrogen will be released into the soil instead of the air. The Winter Rye has also sprouted. It is an excellent soil renovator and pioneer crop for new fields. It enhances soil life and suppressed weeds. It is also great for grazing and it will re-grow after grazing.

Cover crops are those crops which keep the soil covered for a multitude of specific reasons. Attracting bees is one reason. Hairy Vetch is a winter cover crop planted to attract bees and buckwheat is a summer grain that attracts bees. Healthy soil life produces rich, healthy soil. So, have fun with planting clumps of lovely, pretty flowers of all kinds. Just remember to keep the soil covered and protected. NT10c23,Z6CA