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For Immediate Release

East St. Louis Farmers Market Grand Opening May 15 2010

East St. Louis, IL The East St. Louis Farmers Market located at 1908 State Street (the old Mixon Buick dealership site) in East St. Louis, IL will celebrate its Grand Opening on Saturday, May 15 at 9:00 am. Although this is technically the market's 2nd season, the celebration is in recognition of the massive support provided by the greater community during the past year. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has removed hazardous materials from the Farmers Market site. Mayor Parks and the City Council, The University of Illinois Extension - Madison/St. Clair Unit, Healthy Youth Partnership, East Side Health District, local farm owners, and the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois have all pledged their support.

Supporting East St. Louis dignitaries and community leaders are expected to attend the ceremony. The list includes Mayor Alvin Parks, State Representative Eddie Jackson, Illinois State Senator James F. Clayborne, East St. Louis Health District's Elizabeth Patton-Whiteside, Healthy Youth Partnership's Maggie Menefee, and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Tom Miller.

The market will open for business on May 15 from 7:30 am until 3:00 pm. Thereafter, it will be open each Saturday at the same time through early fall.

Three local famers have pledged to immediately supply the market with fresh produce, with a fourth coming on board during the summer.

"We are looking forward to serving the citizens of East St. Louis with the highest quality of produce." says Dr. Gerald Higginbotham, Executive Director of U4ABC, whose LLIFE organization has been teaching community building, self-sufficiency, and community ownership of businesses in East St. Louis for several years. Dr. Gerald went on to say "This is a win-win project for everybody. It makes fresh, healthy produce available at affordable prices and it helps the local economy with employment. I am personally asking for your support by coming out and buying food produced by your local farmers who are working with us to make this a success. "

The entire East St. Louis community is invited to attend this ceremony.

You can read more about how the East St. Louis Farmers Market evolved online at www.llife.org .