

NEWS RELEASE
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**Suffolk Farmers' Market Certified GOLD
and Gives Back to the Community**

SUFFOLK, VA (April 25, 2025) Suffolk Tourism is pleased to announce that the Suffolk Farmers' Market has been awarded Gold Certification from the Virginia Farmers Market Association (VAFMA). This achievement acknowledges the market as a leader in best practices, community service, and support for local agriculture. The Virginia Certified Farmers Market Program ensures that consumers can rely on the market as a safe, welcoming, and transparent source of local food. This certification communicates to shoppers that their safety is a priority and signifies that the market adheres to best practices in areas such as food safety, food origin, food access, public safety, and consumer education. This certification also highlights the dedication of our vendors who are committed to our mission of fostering and supporting the local community. Since its debut in 2004, the Suffolk Farmers' Market has expanded to include over 25 local vendors each week with a rotation of 75+ vendors throughout the year, providing a diverse range of offerings from fresh produce and pasture-raised meats to handcrafted gifts and ready-to-eat meals. The market also supports SNAP options, organizes food drives, and hosts family activities and educational opportunities. The regular Market season opens Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the Suffolk Visitor Center Pavilion. Located at 524 North Main Street, the Market operates 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Saturdays through November 22, 2025.

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Giving Back to the Community

In a spirit of community and collaboration with the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center, the Suffolk Farmers' Market is excited to introduce **The Giving Box**, a new food drive initiative designed to assist local families experiencing food insecurity. Beginning May 3, 2025, both market visitors and vendors will have the chance to donate food and other essential items each week to help replenish the downtown Suffolk food bank and community pantry.

The Giving Box will act as a designated drop-off location for items such as fresh vegetables, eggs, canned goods, cleaning supplies, and other vital staples. Every donation will go directly to the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center community pantry, ensuring that support remains within the local community. We encourage shoppers to bring along an extra item or two during their weekly market visits. Farmers and vendors will also join in, with many committing to provide surplus produce and goods to this worthy cause. The Suffolk Farmers' Market's Giving Box is an easy way to transform abundance into action and address food insecurity and sustainability.

The Suffolk Farmers' Market is produced by Suffolk Tourism. To discover more about the market and related events, please visit SuffolkVaFarmersMarket.com or connect with us on Facebook or Instagram @SuffolkVaFarmersMarket. Learn more about Suffolk Tourism at VisitSuffolkVa.com or via social media platforms @visitsuffolkva. Please contact the Suffolk Visitor Center at 757.514.4130 with any questions.

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