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COLUMBUS SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER ANNOUNCES OPENING OF 4TH ANNUAL FARMERS' MARKET

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Hadler Companies, owner and operator of the Columbus Square Shopping Center will begin the weekly Farmer's Market on Tuesday, July 5, 2011. Residents in the Northland area will be able to shop for Ohio-grown fresh fruits and vegetables operated by Pearl Alley Growers' Association, Inc.

"We're excited to work with the Pearl Alley Growers Columbus Square Farmer's Market to offer Northland area residents this fantastic opportunity to purchase farm-fresh goods and to support local growers for the fourth straight year," said George Hadler, CEO of The Hadler Companies that owns Columbus Square Shopping Center. "Last year, the market was a popular event at the center, and was considered a very successful year. This is another way we can support the Northland community while working with area residents and leaders to enhance the quality of life for Northland neighborhoods and business," Hadler said.

The farmers' market begins promptly at 4 PM lasting until 6 PM at Columbus Square, located at the corner of Cleveland Avenue and state Route 161, and continues every Tuesday rain or shine until Oct. 25.

According to Pearl Alley Growers' Association, this is a certified farmers' market meaning a marketplace where vendors sell products they grow, bake, or produce. Market farmers hail from approximately 12 counties around central Ohio. No franchise vendors are permitted. "Eating local means more for the local economy", says Howard Crum, Association President. "Locally grown produce is fresher. This freshness not only affects the taste of your food, but the nutritional value. Local food just tastes better. Locally grown fruits and vegetables have more time to ripen naturally. Trees and vines ripeness ensures improved quality, flavor and freshness. Buying local food keeps us in touch with the seasons. By eating with the seasons, we are eating foods when they are at their peak flavor as well as most abundant."

Shoppers will find in-season produce including sweet corn, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and fresh fruits like plums and melons as well as more unique items like Asian greens, edamame, and more. Annual herbs and flowers, including cut and dried arrangements, potted plants, and perennial plants also may be found. Previous markets have featured jams and jellies, honey, and syrup products, garlic, fruit and herb vinegars, hot peppers, fresh herbs, Indian corn, summer squash, pumpkins and gourds, and organic beef and cheese products should also be available. Additional products may be sold on designated days at the discretion of the market manager, for example, plant day, zucchini day, apple day, etc. Prepared salads and cut melons or other sliced fruits and sliced vegetables will not be sold.

The Hadler Companies have been serving central Ohio businesses since 1947, and is a family company that owns and manages prime shopping center sites with approximately 2,000,000 square feet of retail space in the Midwest. They also manage the Hadler Realty Company, Hadler Real Estate Management Company, TransAmerica Building Company, SunLight Cleaners, and Columbus Square Bowling Palace.

The Pearl Alley Growers Association, Inc., began nearly twenty years ago, holding farmers' markets all around central Ohio. They use independent farm inspections to ensure their participants actually are Ohio Growers.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.hadlercompanies.com/> or <http://www.mycolumbussquare.com/> or www.pearlalleygrowers.com

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