

Cooperative will issue coverage refunds

By RUSSELL HUBBARD
News staff writer

A Birmingham group selling auto coverage that does not meet the state's new insurance requirement agreed to issue refunds Wednesday.

But the people who bought the coverage won't get a break from police.

State Insurance regulators said that the Alabama Auto Security Cooperative agreed to issue refunds to about 400 people who bought coverage.

That coverage does not satisfy the new law taking effect today because the group is not licensed to sell insurance, according to the Alabama Insurance Department. Every state requires insurance companies to be licensed. That is supposed to ensure that they have sufficient money to pay claims.

On Wednesday, Birmingham police Chief Mike Coppage told his officers to ticket drivers who show documents issued by the cooperative.

"They will cite people for violations because I have been informed that this cooperative's coverage does not comply with the state law," Coppage said.

Police cannot stop drivers just to check insurance, but they can check coverage if they halt a motorist for other reasons.

People driving without auto insurance risk fines and jail time for repeat violations.

Coppage said the department supplied officers in recent days with a guidebook to enforcing the law.

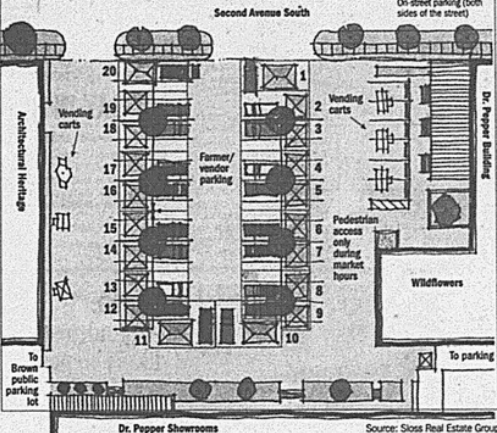
"We understand that this is a new law and there will be a lot of confusion," Coppage said. "We suggest that our officers use their professional discretion in each situation."

The Alabama Auto Security Cooperative had been selling coverage for \$50 down and \$8 per month. The cooperative planned to pay for accidents and damages from the money each member contributed. Its advertisements said members would be legally insured.

The state Insurance Department on Wednesday ordered the group to stop selling coverage. It sent an attorney and other officials to Birmingham to deliver the order. Then...

The Market place

Pepper Place Farmers' Market will set up in the parking lot of the Dr. Pepper Building starting June 10.



Farmers' market, cafe to open at Pepper Place

By MICHAEL TOMBERLIN
News staff writer

Peter Piper can pick some peppers at Pepper Place.

The Pepper Place Farmers' Market will sprout June 10 in the parking lot of the Dr. Pepper Building at 2029 Second Ave. South. The market will then be held every Saturday from 7 a.m. until noon through Sept. 30.

The market will feature fruits and vegetables grown in central Alabama. Vendors also will sell honey, canned foods, baked goods, herbs, meats, flowers and other items.

The project is the brainchild of Cathy Crenshaw, president of Sloss Real Estate Group Inc., re-developer of the Dr. Pepper Building and surrounding projects in the Lakeview District.

She said she hopes to create the same atmosphere of farmers' markets in other cities.

"I have family in California and Boulder, Colo., and when I visit them, they have these great start small," she said. "But we definitely hope this turns into something big."

Mrs. Crenshaw has bounced her farmers' market idea off a number of people for a half dozen years, only recently finding some willing to help her nurture it into fruition: The market's founding board members include local chefs Frank Stitt of Highlands Bar & Grill, Michael Locascio of Arman's, Chris Dupont of Cafe Dupont and Franklin Biggs of Homewood Gourmet. Danny Jones, a farmer and director of the Birmingham Farmers' Market on Finley Avenue, is also on the board, along with Mrs. Crenshaw.

The Pepper Place parking lot has 20 spaces for vendors. Twenty-two have signed up, but some will be sharing booths so organizers say they have room for a few more.

David Fleming, who is coordinating vendors for Sloss, said farmers were contacted through...

FCC OKs cut in phone charges

By KALPANA SRINIVASAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — All telephone customers are expected to see savings beginning with their July long-distance bills under a dramatic overhaul devised by the industry and adopted by the Federal Communications Commission Wednesday.

People who make few or no long-distance calls could see their bills drop by as much as 50 percent.

The commission cut by \$3.2 billion the "access fees" that local phone companies charge long-distance carriers to connect calls — costs that are typically assessed to consumers. Long-distance companies have pledged to pass on the savings, meaning their customers should see lower rates.

Low-volume callers would see the most immediate benefits — with their bills dropping \$3 to \$4 a month. Moderate and heavy users may only see small reductions in the short-run, but stand to gain from falling long-distance rates or price wars that the new plan may trigger, officials said.

"It's going to affect everyone differently, but overall, everyone is going to benefit from this plan," said FCC Chairman William Kennard.

The FCC's action implements an industry proposal offered by long-distance carriers AT&T...

► See Phones, Page 9A

Crooks turning mail into

By JOSH MEYI
Los Angeles Times

Thanks to perfecting an U.S. mail 1 the richest mine.

"It is proof of white-collar country too," says Re spokesman investigating Postal Service.

"You can not know ized for me said. "It can things up."

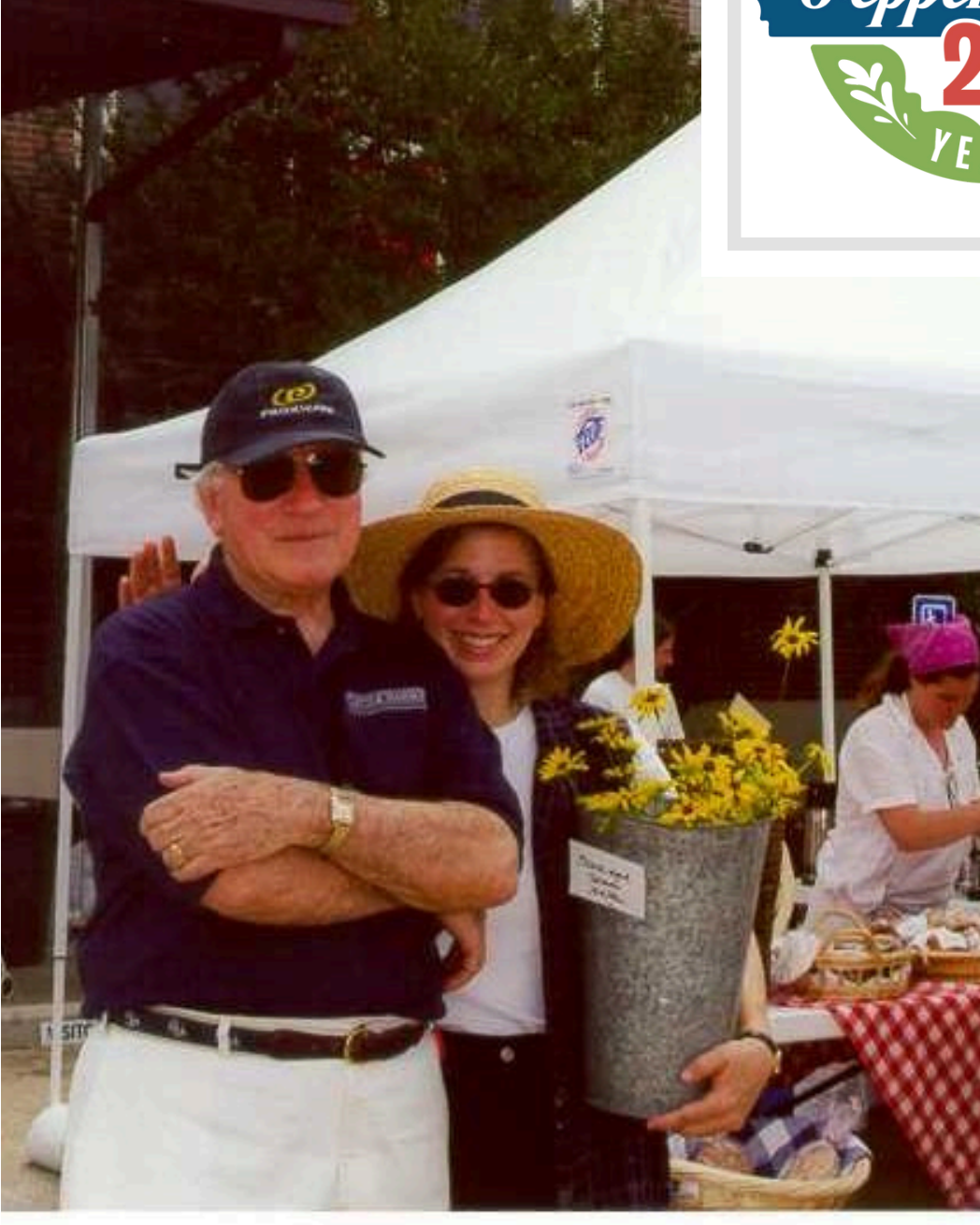


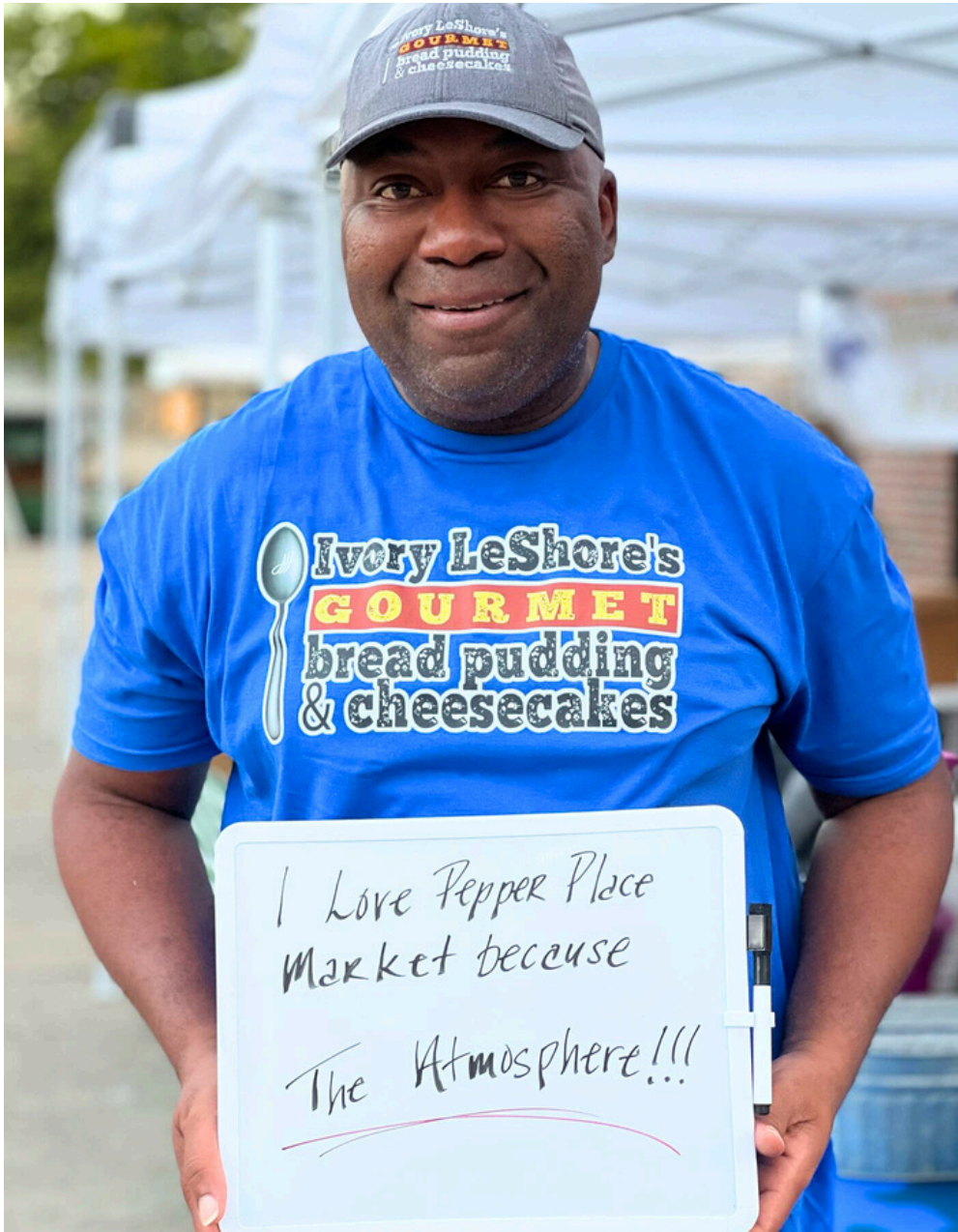


PHOTO BY LOCAL ARTIST D. PAUL JONES III



MARKET FOUNDER CATHY SLOSS JONES WITH FARMER SLATE KNIGHT







Rise and Shine!

**EVERY SATURDAY
APRIL 17 - MAY 8
2829 2ND AVE S
7 AM TILL 12 NOON
RAIN ~ OR ~ SHINE**

SATURDAY MARKET

PepperPlace

Wake up your weekends at Birmingham's favorite outdoor market! This year we are celebrating our eleventh season by making the market bigger and better than ever. Spend a Saturday morning enjoying the community atmosphere and lively conversation on everything from peas to politics. From the freshest local produce, to arts and crafts, to live music and cooking demonstrations by some of the area's finest chefs – Make it a part of your Saturday mornings.

WWW.PEPPERPLACEMARKET.COM

2010 MARKET PROMO BY LOCAL DESIGNER MICHAEL ALFANO





PHOTO BY LOCAL ARTIST D. PAUL JONES III



MUSICIAN JASON BAILEY PLAYS WITH OLD FASHIONED RHYTHM METHOD



Hot Dog
Never too early for a Hot dog.

Famous	5.00
Mustard, Onions, Ketchup, Sauce	
Beef Special	5.00
Mustard, Onions, Ketchup, Sauce	
Bacon Slaw	6.00
Mustard, Slaw, Bacon, Sauce	
Slaw	5.00
Mustard, Slaw, Sauce	
Chili	5.00
Mustard, Chili, Onion	
Junk Yard	6.00
Mustard, Onions, Ketchup, Chili, Sauce	
Polish Dog	8.00
Mustard, Sauerkraut, Polish Sausage	



Something to Crow About

HARVEST & HOLIDAY MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY
OCT 16 - DEC 4
2829 2ND AVE S
7 AM TILL 12 NOON
RAIN ~ OR ~ SHINE



Pepper Place

While Summer has come to an end—there's no need to lament the closing of Birmingham's favorite outdoor market as we offer 8 more Saturdays late into the Fall season. In Alabama, Autumn means fresh-grown apples, pumpkins and squash for your fall feasts. November markets will also bring hand-crafted gifts to the table just in time for the Holiday Season! And of course there'll be all of the cooking demonstrations, live music and culinary delights you've come to enjoy on your Saturday mornings at Pepper Place.

WWW.PEPPERPLACEMARKET.COM

2010 MARKET PROMO BY LOCAL DESIGNER MICHAEL ALFANO





PHOTO BY LOCAL ARTIST D. PAUL JONES III

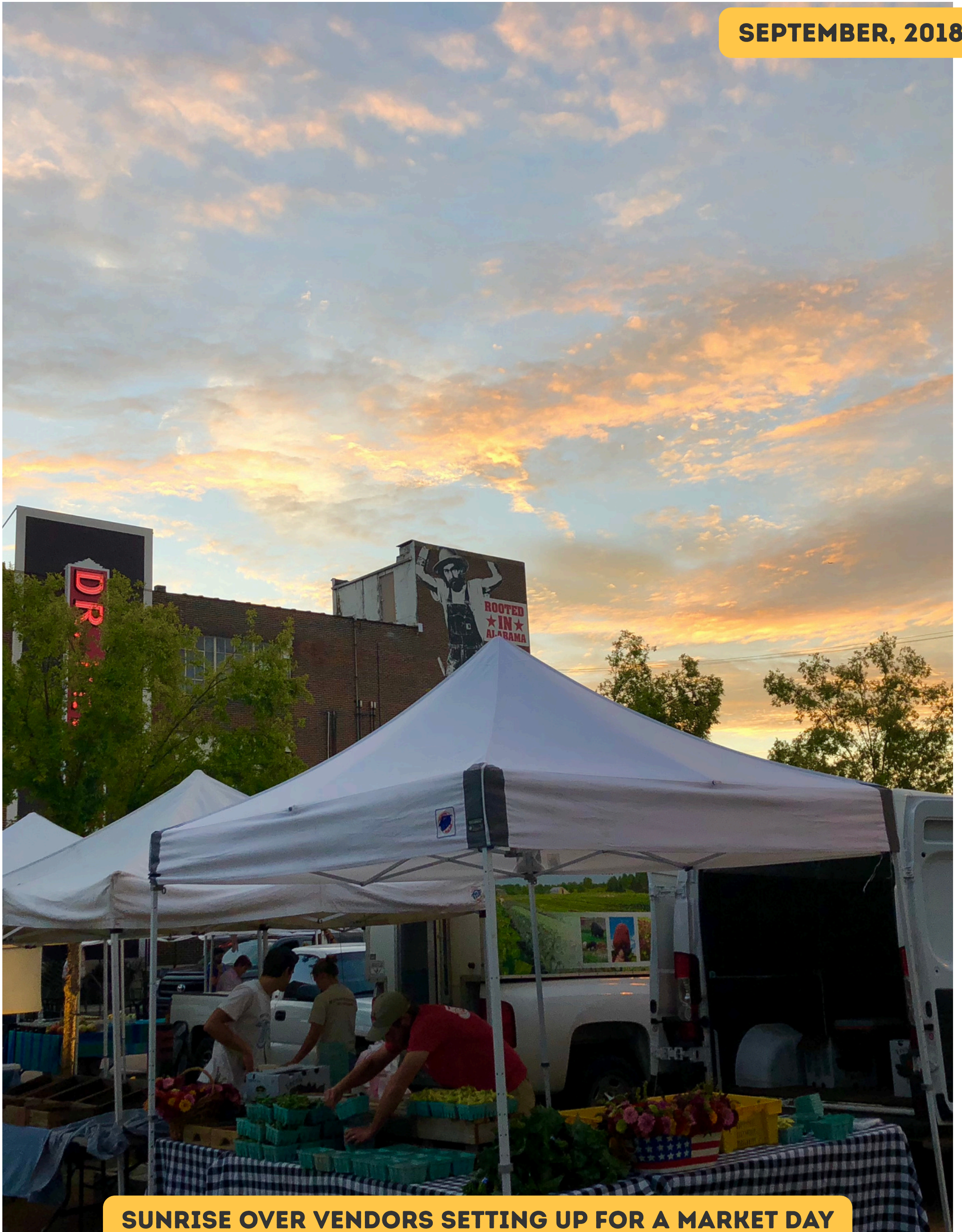


MARKET SHOPPER TAKES HOME PLANT STARTERS ON A SPRING MORNING



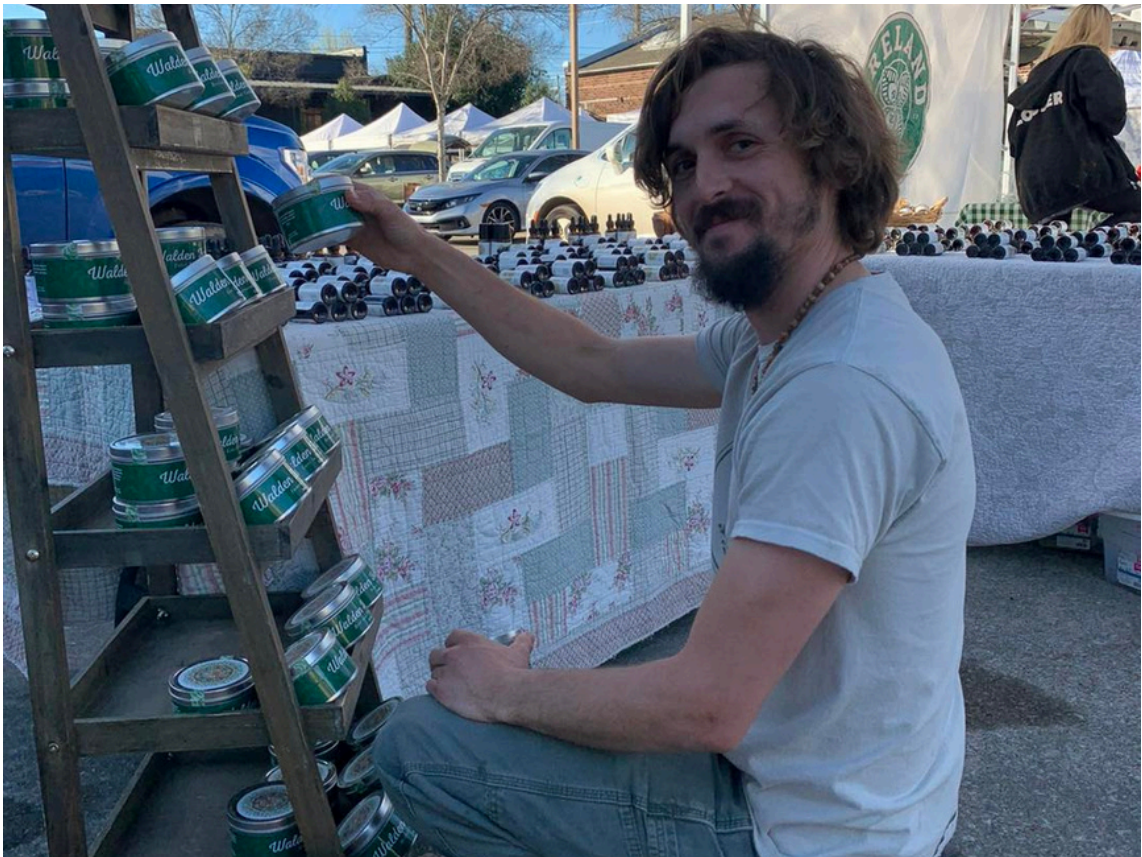


SEPTEMBER, 2018



SUNRISE OVER VENDORS SETTING UP FOR A MARKET DAY





CELEBRATE

Home Grown



WWW.PEPPERPLACEMARKET.COM

MAY 16 - OCT 10
EVERY SATURDAY
ZAM TILL NOON

~ rain or shine ~

Celebrating our tenth year as Birmingham's favorite outdoor market.

2010 MARKET PROMO BY LOCAL DESIGNER, MICHAEL ALFANO





JULY, 2023



EARLY MORNING RAIN ON 29TH STREET SOUTH





OCTOBER, 2023

FOUNDER + CMO, CLEM SUMMERS

NAUGHTY BUT NICE KETTLE CORN CO.



WE SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD TRUCKS!





**SEE THE GLEANING REPORT AT
[PEPPERPLACEMAKRET.COM/GLEANING](https://pepperplacemakret.com/gleaning)**

PRODUCE IS GIVEN TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES



VOLUNTEERS GATHERING UNSOLD PRODUCE DONATED BY FARMERS





AUGUST, 2015



A BUSY, BEAUTIFUL MARKET MORNING





JULY, 2019



SPINKS' FARM OF HAYDEN, ALABAMA VISITING WITH SHOPPERS





JUNE, 2022



CHILTON COUNTY PEACHES GROWN @ BURNETTE FARMS

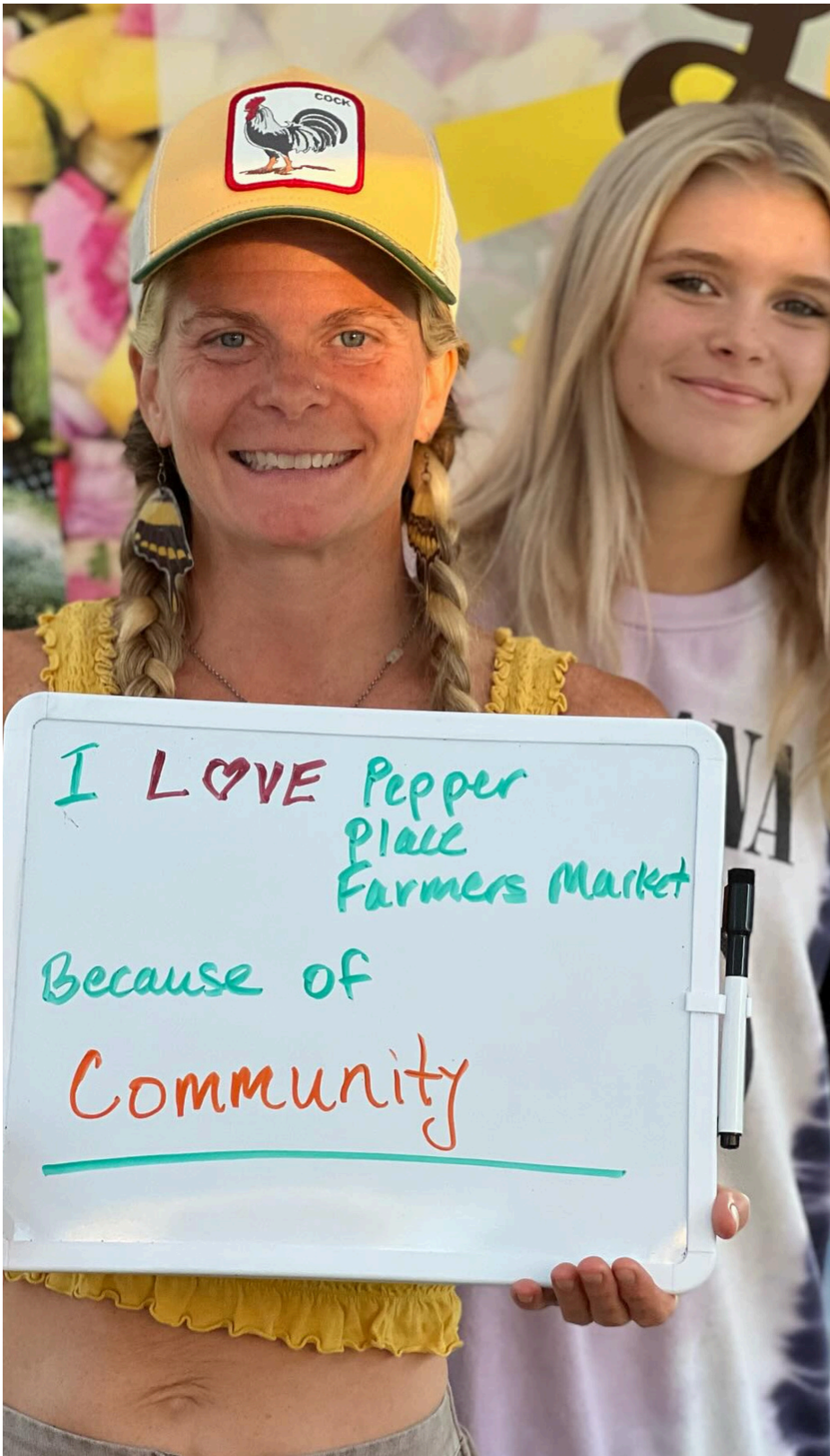




NOVEMBER, 2024



AN EARLY FALL MORNING BROWSING 29TH STREET SOUTH





DECEMBER, 2017



DAYSPRING DAIRY'S NEWEST MEMBER, "FLURRY" VISITS THE MARKET



JULY, 2018



GORGEOUS FIGS GROWN AT JONES VALLEY TEACHING FARM IN BHAM



