

To Market We Go

A Celebration of the Lancaster County Farmers Market on the Upper Main Line

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In the early fall of 2019, an idea began to percolate in the minds of a few of us “regulars” that the Strafford Farmers Market, and its predecessors, is truly an iconic Upper Main Line community treasure whose rich history needs to be recorded and honored. Like a much-beloved spouse who, without due acknowledgement, is sometimes taken for granted, the Market has become an expectation over the decades and generations. Yet “going to market” is, for so many thousands of Main Liners, as much a pleasurable habit as a place to buy the things that bring quality and value. So, we began to reach out to those who could help us tell this story properly: to the

Weaver organization, which has owned the Market since the 1950s; to so many standholders, past and present, who have made our habit of shopping both a delight and an anticipated routine; and to the many who have shared this experience with their children and their grandchildren. We wanted to collect the texture of this place—not just the facts, but the emotions as well. The response has been overwhelming and heartening, confirming that the recognized appreciation of the few of us involved is indeed reflected by the gratefulness of so many in our community. Memories, stories and images have flowed in. This compendium, past and present, is the result.



This wonderful image of the Old Homestead Farm stand located within the downtown Wayne Farmers Market in 1962, is a real gem. The legendary Walter Himmelreich, one of the original Farmers Market standholders, is shown on the left. 8-year-old Bobby Wiker would later create a legend of his own at the Strafford Market. *Courtesy of Betsy Wiker.*

“I love the Farmer’s Market—it evokes happy memories with my mother, and reminds me of the importance of shopping local with small vendors.” — Judith Hammerschmidt