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Slow Food Coming Fast

Tacoma, WA, March 7, 2011.

Shoppers' comments will be heeded this year as the Tacoma Farmers Markets alter market schedules. Opening earlier than ever – both the Downtown and 6th Avenue markets will begin the first week of May! "This will enable our customer's to jump-start their edible gardens with plant starts that include popular varieties which are hand nurtured here in Western Washington, including; heirloom tomatoes, rhubarb, peppers, green onions, Walla Walla onions, chard, flowers and a host of other plants," shared Laura Edwards, Market Director.

In addition to an earlier season for both Markets, all three TFM locations will offer altered time schedules from those of previous years. "Most significant will be the 4:00pm closure time for the Downtown Broadway Market," added Edwards, "our vendors repeatedly asked for a later start time since they were harvesting each morning [in the dark] to get to Broadway by 8:30am. This allows them better light to harvest in and safer transport to the Market. By popular request, we are also piloting a later closure time in order to accommodate the after-work crowd, who struggled with storage of fresh produce purchased on their lunch hours in previous years." The 6th Avenue Market will run from 3:00pm to 7:00pm on Tuesdays and the South Tacoma Market will operate from 11:00am to 3:00pm on Sundays, which are only slightly different from that of previous seasons.

Stay tuned for Fresh Food 1st Fridays in July and August at Multicare's main campus on Martin Luther King, as mini markets will be set up to serve employees and the public as part of a Center for Healthy Living initiative. "The details are still being worked out, yet we are thrilled to partner with Multicare and combine our efforts to continue creating healthier communities in Tacoma-Pierce County," said Edwards.