

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough      10/7/2021

### "Farmer's Market New Location A Success"

After a year of operation, the new location of the Sylvania Farmer's Market in the Saint Joseph Parish parking lot has been a wonderful success. My thanks to Monsignor Michael Billian and Saint Joseph Parish for graciously hosting the Market at this new location for 2021!

The Farmer's Market has had several locations over the years – the Sylvania Heritage Center, the Municipal parking lot, the Sylvania Municipal Court parking lot, Maplewood Avenue and the Sylvania United Methodist Church. An expanding number of vendors over the years and sometimes conflicts with other events have led to the Market's relocation over the years.

The new location at Saint Joseph Parish has been a great fit this summer. Plenty of room for vendors, plenty of parking for customers and no conflicting events, traffic or neighborhood issues.

Saint Joseph Parish and the City of Sylvania have worked cooperatively in the past to develop and improve that parking lot. Originally, the Parish owned the space behind houses located on the east side of Main Street across from the church. The City was able to purchase those houses and eventually exchanged properties with the Parish, giving the City parking for Harroun Community Park and the Parish parking closer to Main Street and the church.

Over the years, that cooperation has continued for pavement improvements, drainage and snow removal. A few years ago, a storm water retention pond was installed at the east edge of the parking lot to slow erosion occurring on the steep hill down into Harroun Community Park.

Some residents may remember the lot was once used as a TARTA Park and Ride lot. The old shelter that stood in the center of the lot, and just recently removed, served TARTA riders. The shelter was installed at the request of Marie Vogt, the former owner of the Lathrop House, to help direct busses to the center of the lot away from her house, where diesel fumes were bothering her and her husband.

The parking lot is also used for Saint Joseph Parish's annual Festirama. The larger lot size has led to a safer Festirama than earlier years when Parish property on both sides of Main Street needed to be used.

The partnership and cooperation between the City and St. Joseph are something to value. So much more can be accomplished when we are able to work together for the greater benefit of both the Parish and the Community.

Thank you again Monsignor Billian and Saint Joseph Parish!



Monsignor Michael Billian and Mayor Craig Stough