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**JOINT PRESS RELEASE:
COUNTY OFFICIALS CELEBRATE
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK BY
HOSTING GROUNDBREAKING AT LOCAL
FARMERS' MARKET**



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Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. — Today, the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners and Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) celebrated National Public Health Week by hosting a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of the Okaloosa Farmers' Market in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

"Dorcas farmer Ruth Clark inspired me to help make this happen, and with the support of the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners, today, we break ground on the 'Miss Ruth's Farmer's Market,'" stated Carolyn Ketchel, Okaloosa County Commissioner, District 2. "We are so fortunate to have locally grown fruits and vegetables, and this is a perfect marriage between the North County farmers and South County residents."

"We appreciate the County Commissioners' work toward giving everyone a choice of healthy food," stated Dr. Karen A. Chapman, Director of DOH-Okaloosa. "Eating a balance diet filled with plenty of colorful fruits and vegetables is an important step in reducing chronic diseases such as obesity, hypertension, and diabetes."

About National Public Health Week

During the first full week of April each year, American Public Health Association (APHA) brings together communities across the United States to observe National Public Health Week as a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. Visit www.nphw.org for more information.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

About Miss Ruth's Farmer's Market in Okaloosa County

1958 Lewis Turner Boulevard, at the Fort Walton Beach Fairgrounds, adjacent to Okaloosa County Annex Extension. Currently open on Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays. The larger space to be constructed will be 60 ft. by 40 ft., and is expected to open in July.

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