
The Henderson County Curb Market, located in Hendersonville, was proposed in 1922 as a way to make it easier for farmers to sell their produce to consumers. Until then, farmers went through the time-consuming process of driving into town a few days a week and going door-to-door peddling their produce, making a centralized market desirable. By 1924, farmers and local leaders had come together to open the Curb Market. More than eighty years later, the market is still active as a place for consumers to purchase farm produce, plants, flowers, baked goods, jams, jellies, canned goods, and crafts.

In her book on the Curb Market, Ann Greenleaf Wirtz tells the history of the market and seeks to demonstrate what makes it so meaningful to those who work and shop there. The history of the market, covered in the first few chapters, is based on contemporary newspaper accounts. Each of the remaining chapters, based on interviews, profiles one of the vendors at the market. Most of the vendors have been working at the market for decades and often have a family tradition of selling at the Curb Market going back to its earliest days. Their stories provide a sometimes charming, sometimes poignant portrait of life in Henderson County, past and present.

Wirtz, previously the author of the memoir *Sorrow Answered*, is a native Midwesterner who has lived in Henderson County since 2002. A frequent customer at the Curb Market herself, the author’s enthusiasm for the old-fashioned crafts and baked goods sold at the market, as well as her interest in the personal stories of its vendors, can be infectious. However, the specificity of the subject matter limits its appeal for readers outside that immediate area. The book is recommended for libraries in the Henderson County area and other libraries with extensive collections in local history.

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