

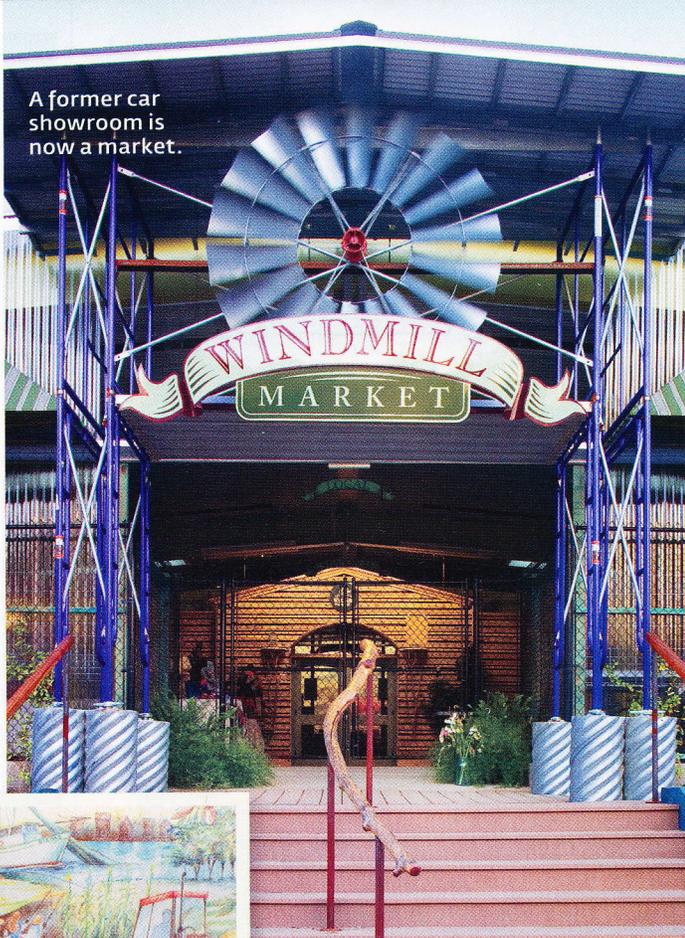
A Market Goes Green in Fairhope

Windmill Market features Mobile Bay-area **foods, antiques, and artwork** in an eco-friendly setting. BY AMY BICKERS

Windmill Market, the brainchild of married architects Mac and Gina Walcott, is a farmers' market and crafts fair with an environmentally friendly flair. Each week from Thursday through Sunday, locals and visitors fill the former car dealership the couple retrofitted last year into a way-cool structure with a roof and awnings—but no walls.

About 45 booths feature vendors selling such goods as honey, wood crafts, pottery, jewelry, fresh pasta, cut flowers, fruits, and vegetables. At the rear of the airy 6,600-square-foot building, the WestSide Grocery offers dishes from local restaurants. Scheduled to open in June, Mary Ann's at the Market will feature a light menu. Enjoy it all while sitting and listening to musicians perform outdoors.

Mac and Gina used as many environmentally sound ideas as possible in the market. A 35-foot-tall windmill with 12-foot-wide blades set beside the building and solar panels on the roof provide most of the electricity. Local sawmill owners Roy and Allie Hyde crafted comfortable outside benches from the lumber of fallen trees.



A former car showroom is now a market.



Fresh produce fills one booth.



PAPPARDELLE'S PASTA \$ 7.95 ~ 30 Flavors ~ Free Pappardelle's artisan pastas

Herbs and vegetables grow in raised beds at the front of the market, and visitors are encouraged to help harvest the season's crop. Everything planted on the property is edible. Mac says a mom who lives a block away often sends her teenage son over to weed the garden. "Community," he says, "is the most fun aspect of this." *

WINDMILL MARKET: at Equality Avenue and Bancroft Street; windmillmarket.org or 251/517-5444. HOURS: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, and noon-4 p.m. Sunday.

★ Five Things To Buy Here

1. **Will's Turtle Soup** from Will Hughes Catering in the WestSide Grocery
2. **Gallberry honey, beeswax soap, and dipped beeswax candles** from local beekeepers Jon and Cheryl Kittrell
3. **Rendered photographs of Fairhope and Baldwin County** from Mic Designs
4. **Furniture** from local furniture-maker and woodworker Denis Hermezc
5. **Loxley Farm Market produce** such as tomatoes and squash from a 100-acre farm in Baldwin County



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