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Lafayette  
Parks, Open Space & Golf  
Department



# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Lafayette's Thomas Open Space Organic Farm Celebrates Food, Family & Farming**

Thomas Open Space is Host Site for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual GROWE Foundation's Isabelle Farm Family Day on September 15

**LAFAYETTE, CO September 6, 2012** – Last year the City of Lafayette Parks & Open Space Department, three chefs, more than 20 sponsors and 50 volunteers worked together to create a great event that raised close to \$7,000 for GROWE while connecting more than 400 area participants with on-the-farm events. This year Isabelle Farm along with a delightful array of local culinary talents, including Chef Adam Watts of Jax Fish House and other Big Red F chefs, will prepare fabulously fresh fare keen foodies won't want to miss.

Since opening in the newly constructed barn at Thomas Open Space in August, Isabelle Farm has quickly settled into the building and once again established themselves as a community member. The barn's dedication event in early June was a huge success with an estimated 500 folks coming to Thomas to celebrate the city's commitment to supporting local agriculture. Isabelle Farm held their grand opening on June 29. Since then an average of four hundred purchases are made at the farm stand every week, resulting in approximately 10,000 pounds of weekly sales.

Because of Isabelle Farm's passion for making farm fresh produce accessible to area residents, they are hosting the GROWE Foundation's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Isabelle Farm Family Day

fundraising event on September 15 from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM. All proceeds from the event will benefit GROWE Foundation's Garden to Table Programs in Boulder Valley School District. By hosting this event Isabelle Farm fulfills a portion of the community education requirement which is part of their lease agreement with the City.

This year's event will include numerous fun, farm-related activities, freshly prepared food, farm tours, hay rides, live music and entertainment. Natalie Condon of Isabelle Farm highlights that "the zucchini races and tractor-pulled wagon rides were huge hits last year and so those will, of course, be center-stage again, as will music and food. This year, the Big Red F's JAX Boulder, Denver and Fort Collins chefs are teaming up to offer an amazing menu featuring kid-friendly and grown-up preparations of fresh-harvested Isabelle Farm produce and, of course, fish." Event goers will find an abundance of enjoyable activities at the activities at the Thomas Open Space farm.

Lafayette is unique in its rooted involvement in agriculture preservation. Condon enthusiastically declares, "We were incredibly surprised by the outpouring of community support for the event last year and how people embraced the opportunity to experience the farm first hand. Folks came from all parts of Boulder County to support Growe and simply have a great time in the fields. Being farmers, we sometimes forget just how unique an opportunity it is to spend time on a working farm!"

City of Lafayette Parks, Open Space and Golf Director, Monte Stevenson, couldn't agree more. "Because of our partnership with agriculture, residents can access locally, organically grown foods which is a value our community advocates for," adds Stevenson. "The GROWE Foundation fundraising event encompasses these values. The Thomas Open Space Organic Farm project demonstrates our community's desire to improve Lafayette's quality of life through the Open Space program."

All community members, individuals and families, are invited to participate in an effort to make this event successful for the GROWE Foundation.

For more information on the Thomas Open Space Organic Farm project go to  
<http://www.cityoflafayette.com/index.aspx?nid=171>

To watch a video of the Garden to Table program in action visit:  
<http://youtu.be/2yaMkKwND24>.

For more general information about Isabelle Farm Family Day visit  
<http://www.isabellefarm.com/special-events>.

To purchase tickets online for the Isabelle Farm Family Day go to  
<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1116163>.

### **GROWE Foundation's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Isabelle Farm Family Day September 15, 2012**

Thomas Open Space

1640 W. Baseline Rd / Lafayette, CO 80026

Event: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Family Passes (4 family members): Pre-Registered \$59; Day of Event \$69

Adult Single Ticket: \$20

Child Single Ticket: \$15

#### **About Thomas Open Space Organic Farm Project**

In November 2005, voters passed a ballot issue that allowed the City of Lafayette to lease open space for farming purposes. This approval gave the green light to start working on plans for the farm, located on Thomas Open Space. City Council approved the agricultural lease of Thomas by Isabelle Farm early in 2011 and construction of the barn completed in June 2012. For more information about the project visit  
[www.cityoflafayette.com/openspace](http://www.cityoflafayette.com/openspace).

#### **About Growe Foundation's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Isabelle Farm Family Day**

On SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, Isabelle Farm will be hosting the second ISABELLE FAMILY FARM DAY at the Thomas Open Space farm, all of the proceeds from which benefit the GROWE Foundation's great work in Boulder County Public Schools. Tickets for both the daytime event and the JAX FISH-TO-FARM DINNER are on sale now! Book yours before they sell out! This farm dinner will be held at the Barn at Thomas Open Space, 1640 West Baseline Road, in Lafayette, CO.

#### **About Growe Foundation's JAX Fish-to-Farm Dinner**

This year, JAX FISH HOUSE Boulder will cook up culinary delights day and night; first for the Family Farm Day (11 AM-3 PM) and then for an elegant evening of fine food. Details about the event are coming together, so check back soon for more information. Tickets are available online or "at the door". All proceeds benefit the GROWE Foundation's Garden to Table Programs in BVSD. For more information visit  
<http://www.facebook.com/GroweFoundation>.