

# PRINCE WILLIAM

EXTRA

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PW



SARAH LANE/THE WASHINGTON POST

Annie Sidley talks with D.C. resident Shary Thur during a cooking demonstration at Smart Market's Prince William farmers market.

## Tasty cuisine a la farmers market

Bristow Montessori School parking lot becomes a hot spot when Demo Diva is cooking

BY SARAH LANE

The smells draw you in: seasoned potatoes and onions frying in a skillet. It's the aroma of warm comfort food that you might find in your mother's kitchen on a Sunday morning.

But this Sunday morning, the scents come from a pitched tent in a school's parking lot

during freezing temperatures.

Annie Sidley — affectionately known as the Demo Diva — uses her portable butane stove and electric skillet to prepare her first cooking demonstration at Smart Market's new Prince William County location.

The market opened Jan. 8 at Bristow Montessori School, where it had moved from the Virginia Gateway shopping center. It employs Sidley to demonstrate how to turn vegetables into delicious dishes.

Generally, farmers markets don't stay open year-round. To change locations mid-winter might seem like a risky move.

But, maybe not. A little after 10:30 a.m., shoppers milled

around the vendors' tents, sampling apples and cupcakes, and talking about organic dark chocolate and gluten-free bread, while waiting for the market to officially open. The market, devoted to local farmer, uses Sidley to serve as its culinary advocate. Her job is not only to promote the market and its vendors but also demonstrate cooking techniques.

A personal chef trained at L'Academie de Cuisine, Sidley, 44, has been working for Smart Market for about two years. The Bethesda resident began as a musician, playing at the market's other locations in

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## 2 years in prison for bid-rigging employee

Another county worker sentenced for role in shell-company scheme

BY JEREMY BORDEN

A former Prince William County employee was sentenced Thursday to two years in prison for his role in a scheme that set up shell companies to bid on and win county technology contracts.

John Roessler, 53, worked in the county's Office of Information Technology until 2008. From 2004 to 2008, he and the IT department's division chief, Maneesh Gupta, created shell companies to compete for and win contracts. In total, the companies received more than \$8 million.

Roessler carried out work for a shell company, Praetorian Systems, and earlier pleaded guilty to dozens of charges, including racketeering and rigging bids. Roessler also was given 10 years probation and will have to begin paying back, along with Gupta and others, the \$3.7 million that, prosecutors say, they owe the county. Judge Craig D. Johnston said a restitution plan would be set up at a later time.

Gupta, 48, was sentenced in November to three years in prison, with an additional 48 years suspended, and 10 years' probation.

Roessler said in court before

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