

Hillsdale Farmers' Market kicks off 17th season, Molloy returns as manager

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

The Hillsdale Farmers' Market 17th season begins on April 8 and will run every Sunday through Nov. 18. New hours this year are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The year-round market hosts over 50 local farmers and food artisans from Oregon and Southwest Washington.

A wide range of vegetables, fruits, meats, cheeses, honey, baked goods, and ready-to-eat foods are available on a seasonal basis. The market also features master gardeners in the growing season and local musicians.

"Back in 2002, there were not too many farmers' markets in the Portland area," said Eamon Molloy, market manager.

"A community meeting was called in February 2002 and 30 people showed up. In a few short months, the market incorporated and opened in June," said Molloy. "Property owner John Braidwood offered space around the Mexican restaurant to set up the market."

It remained in this area for the three seasons and then moved to the Rieke School parking lot in 2005 where it currently resides.

Some of the original vendors are still present: Herr Family Farm, Sun Gold Farm, Salmon Creek Farm, Linda Brand Crab, Rick Steffen Farm, Boyco Honey, and Salvador Molly's.

"The market received a recognition from Sunset magazine in the July 2011 issue," Molloy said. "It was named as one of the top ten farmers' markets in the west."

The Post asked Molloy for one story that stood out over the years.

"On January 25, 2009," said Molloy, "it was about 25 degrees (Fahrenheit)

and it had snowed. The roads were passable so we decided to open the market. It started to snow again and there was a slight wind. The vendors and I looked at each other thinking, 'Boy this was a stupid idea!'"

According to Molloy, once the market opened, the snow stopped, the wind died down, and the customers came.

"At the end of the day," Molloy said, "everyone had a really good day. One farmer who had a two-hour drive to Portland emailed me later in the week saying, 'I was cursing you all the way up to Portland and thanking you all the way back home.'"

A new assistant manager was hired last summer. Jacqui Stork said she was working in Tucson teaching nutritional classes to recipients of food stamp programs.

Stork said she was tired of the hot desert and after finishing her graduate degree in public administration, she was ready for a change and decided Portland was the place for her.

"People are very welcoming," Stork told The Post. "The market has about two dozen volunteers on a regular basis but we're always looking for more. Coming up on Earth Day (April 22), we will have the 'Plant-a-Seed Activity' with the Junior League."

Find out more at <http://www.hillsdalefarmersmarket.com>.

La Mota cannabis dispensary to replace Uncle John's Pizza in Markham

One of the few Markham neighborhood businesses closed after many years. Uncle John's Market & Deli, located at the corner of Spring Garden Street and Taylors Ferry Road, is gone due to a lack of business according to a source who knows the owner. The longtime business specialized in pizza and other deli items.



Volunteers Janet Leamy and Don Caniparoli join Eamon Molloy, manager, and Jacqui Stork, assistant manager, at the Hillsdale Farmers' Market information booth. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

In its place, a chain medical marijuana dispensary, La Mota, will be opening in the coming months. Donna Herron, chair of the Markham Neighborhood Association, notified neighbors that the business would grow some plants in the back as well.

"The owners have communicated with the neighborhood," Herron said.

A city cannabis licensing staff member, along with a representative of La Mota, attended a Markham neighborhood meeting recently and outlined their plan to proceed with opening the store.

"They will be returning to our neighborhood meeting in the coming months to give updates," Herron said. "They did express an interest in being a good neighbor and hearing from us if there is something our neighborhood requests of them."

According to Herron, Markham is made up of approximately 1,047 households, two churches, and one business.

"There are more if you include a couple adult retirement and foster homes, and miscellaneous in-home businesses flying under the radar,"

Herron said.

"That's very unfortunate," wrote Stephan Otto, of Collins View, on Nextdoor. "Nothing against dispensaries, but we already have a lot of them in the area. Wish they were spaced further apart like liquor stores. We were really hoping for a cafe or restaurant. Oh well."

Herron said that some parents who attended the neighborhood meeting expressed their concern that the dispensary would be too close to Capitol Hill and St. Claire schools.

"However, the city said it is not too close and allowed La Mota to proceed with their plans," Herron told The Post.

While the building is vacant and under remodeling, neighbors have found used needles that caused alarm.

"La Mota was notified and is trying to keep a watchful eye of any new activity or debris on the property," Herron said. "Portlanders spoke and the majority voted to legalize cannabis. The city granted a legal business (license) to open in the Markham neighborhood so Markham welcomes them."

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