

Astoria Sunday Market kicks off its 2016 season

ASTORIA — The Astoria Sunday Market will once again open on Mother's Day, May 8. To help celebrate, the Brownsmead Flats are back opening day as the featured band. The Northwest Lion & Dragon Dancers also return from Portland, bringing their colorful and lively dancers to parade through the market starting at 10 a.m.

This year, Astoria Sunday Market is extending its season an additional week so that the closing market takes place the same day as the Great Columbia Crossing on Oct. 16. "We feel it is important to have the market in place for the runners and walkers," explained market director Cyndi Mudge.

Astoria Sunday Market runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday from May 8 through Oct. 16 in downtown Astoria on 12th Street.

New vendors this season include Bliss Nut Butters selling their line of peanut and hazelnut butter products; Pilot House Distillery is sampling and selling their spirits; the popular Sea Star Gelato from Seaside is bringing their own crafted gelatos to the market; and several new confection makers will be serving up truffles, toffee and a variety of peanut brittles.

Returning vendors include artist Bill W. Dodge, who will unveil three new original paintings at the opening market. "Wonderment" is a small piece in his ongoing cat series, and "Surprise! It's Halloween" is a slightly larger folk art piece depicting the holiday on a dark and stormy night. "The Joy of Snow" is described by Dodge as one of his "major" works, with a canvas size of 22-by-28 inches, and is a fanciful winter scene showing the



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY KATHY PATENAUDE

Lauren Jacobsen's Shady Grove booth offers hand knit and felted wool and alpaca hats, gloves, puppets, scarves, bags, decorations and more.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Joy of Snow" by Bill Dodge.

many joys that a turn-of-the-century community enjoys after a heavy snow. All three originals, plus copies of the new artwork, will be available for purchase.

Dodge will be at the Astoria Sunday Market the first Sundays of each month after the market's launch, thanks to a partnership with Columbia River Maritime Museum. All proceeds of the sales go directly to museum programming.

Other familiar vendors joining the market again include soap maker Rick Smith, artist Ronni Harris, Oregon's popular Packer's

Orchard and Bakery, coastal farmer Kingfisher, and cedar woodcarver Zola Bokor, along with many others.

The Color of Fresh is this year's theme, captured



PHOTO BY JOSHUA BESSEX

The Astoria Sunday Market is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday from May 8 to Oct. 16.

by artist James Dunbar who created the market art for 2016. Dunbar is from Portland and will be at the market opening day.

Astoria Sunday Market was founded in 2000 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing historic downtown Astoria and supporting artists, farmers and other small producers and businesses. Another important piece of its mission is to create a vibrant community gathering place.

Astoria Sunday Market has donated nearly \$170,000 to a variety of downtown projects and events over the years including Liberty Theater restoration, the Garden of Surging Waves, con-

struction of the public restrooms, downtown beautification projects and Astoria Downtown Historic District Association. The most recent grant was \$2,000 in October 2013 for the Friends of the Armory.

Astoria Sunday Market operates a Young Entrepreneur's Club in partnership with Clatsop County 4-H

offering kids an opportunity to vend at the market starting in June of each year. Astoria Sunday Market also organizes vendors for the cruise ship market located at the Port of Astoria for each visiting ship.

For more information about the market and its music schedule, visit www.AstoriaSundayMarket.com

Open 7am Daily!



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Pre-sale tickets \$12
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