

City starts fresh with Fishermen's and Farmer's Market

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press



Top: Terry and Doug Arnall find specialty breads at the SeMe Family Foods stand.
Left: Dan Delay cuts smoked salmon to add to the chowder at his food cart.
Right: Jessica McDonald places a silkie chicken on Gunar Puffinburger's shoulder when the 11-year-old visited her booth at the market on opening day June 20.

Kalmia project concerns many; vote postponed

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City commissioners took a step back Tuesday night from approval of the 15-unit Clear Lake subdivision, which has some residents concerned about destruction of wetlands, lack of access, construction rights, and fencing.

The project proposed by Gil Gramson of Sandridge Construction was approved by the Planning Commission April 25 with some conditions attached.

This week, Warrenton city commissioners dealt with two appeals, one from Sandridge that contended the conditions were inappropriate and one filed by Gramson's estranged brother, Rod, who believes the project shouldn't be built at all.

The eight-acre site at the north end of Kalmia Avenue is bordered by wetlands on three sides. Clear Lake, a natural area owned by North Coast Land Conservancy, is on the east. Fort Pointe, a future planned development, is to the west with wetlands between them. There's a gravel access road at the south end of the project that could connect to Ridge Road, possibly providing a second access in the future.

Gramson has completed two other subdivisions along Kalmia, one of them 17 lots and one 11 lots.

Because each project was completed separately, there were no triggers that prompted the city to require parkland to be set aside or secondary access roads.

The City Commission chose to review the subdivision and appeals as a de novo hearing, which means they'd look at the entire project as a new case.

Gramson is requesting a hardship

The city's first attempt at sponsoring a farmer's market was successful in bringing kettle corn, snow cones, smoked chowder, fresh produce and hand-made wares to Warrenton Marina.

"I think it went pretty well for the first time," Harbormaster Jane Sweet said. "The produce (sellers) will continue to grow and we have some commercial guys helping us get some fish in there."

There were more than a dozen booths for the first week with additional vendors hoping to sign on soon.

Spaces are \$25 per week and items sold must be grown regionally, made by hand or caught.

"I think this is awesome," said Timm Fadden, who rode his tadpole-style tricycle from his home in Hammond. "I'm so excited this is happening."

He built his trike three years ago to help him get around.

"I'm not a wheelchair kind of guy," he said.

Others brought their dogs on leashes or came with the entire family. See 'Market' on Page 4

Sofia Morrill crowned Miss Scandinavia

The Columbia Press

Sofia Morrill, a 2019 graduate of Warrenton High School, was crowned Miss Scandinavia during coronation ceremonies Friday on opening night of the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival.

"I was very surprised," said Morrill, 18. "At first I was like, 'Oh, wow. This is crazy.' I just didn't believe it."

Morrill was Miss Finland 2019 and becoming Miss Scandinavia also gave her the title of queen for the festival.

Morrill is the daughter of Greg and Annamaria Salin Morrill. Her mother is from Finland and immigrated to the United States to marry her father.

Morrill loves the festival because it allows her to be around things that are part of her culture and heritage, she said. "I definitely enjoy the food, the desserts and stuff, and Finland as a country in general. I just love it as a country and my grandparents are there."

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Scott Docherty

Sofia Morrill is crowned by Chaperone Rebeckah Orton and Miss Scandinavia 2018 Kourtney Tischer. Chaperone Amanda Rohne and crown bearer Kirk Rohne look on.

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