

Farmers Market kicks off 2015 season

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Featuring more vendors in the first week than were in attendance any week last year, the Seaside Farmers Market is open for the summer season.

Visitors and shoppers milled about the field adjacent to the Seaside American Legion Post 99 on Broadway, perusing and buying fresh fruits and vegetables, potted starter plants, flowers, baked goods and honey.

The market, which is in its second consecutive year, will be open each Wednesday, 3-7 p.m., through Sept. 30.

Nine vendors attended the first market, providing a wide variety of goods, and there were a few who did not make it but plan to be at future markets, Market Manager Rachael Bailey said.

In March, Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District was granted a variance from the city that expanded the permitted sales associated with the market and allowed vendors to sell prepared food cooked on-site, as well as up to 20 percent nonfood, artisanal items.

The American Legion was selling hamburgers on-site, and other prepared-food vendors plan to join at some point in the season, which is shaping up nicely. Bailey said.

Vendors at the first market included: Grace



The Seaside Farmers Market opened for the 2015 season June 17. The market will be Wednesdays, from 3-7 p.m., at the field adjacent to the Seaside American Legion Post 99 on Broadway.

Body Essentials, A&B Farms, Blackberry Bog Farm, Lazy Creek Farm, Dough Dough Wholesale Bakery, Starvation Alley Farms, Two Hens in a Basket and a couple others. Attendees could buy fresh produce, scones and bread, a variety of berries, soaps and moisturizers,

oyster mushroom kits, organic cranberry juice, farm-fresh eggs and more, all produced by local and regional businesses and individuals.

The market also was attended by representatives for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants

and Children, known as WIC, and the Clatsop County Master Gardeners. The Seaside Public Library held a children's storytime event. Kristin Tschannen of Seaside Yoga gave a free kids yoga lesson and Alena Sheldon provided music entertainment for the af-

ternoon. Yoga lessons and live music will be at the market each week.

Patrons also can get a 2015 Seaside Farmers Market passport. With each visit to the market, they can get the passport stamped at the information booth. At the end of the season, event organiz-

ers will have a drawing of the passports that have at least 12 of 16 weekly stamps for the season. Winners will get prizes for being frequent shoppers.

For more information, visit the Seaside Farmers Market Facebook page or www.seasidemarket.org.

KATHERINE LACAZE PHOTO

Speakman says need for Gearhart fire station replacement 'isn't a new issue'

Station from Page 1A

"This isn't a new issue," Gearhart resident and former planning commission member Jay Speakman said. "There was an effort to actually approve a new station. It went to a vote, and it failed. There was a lot of bad publicity about it at the time, about overreach, excess taxation and so forth. So we missed an opportunity to do it in the past, but it has been tried."

Despite the plan's rejection in 2006, councilors unanimously agreed that the fire station needs a second look.

"I see no reason not to talk," Councilor Daniel Jesse said.

According to Sweet, the difference between this pro-

cess and the 2006 bond is the impetus coming from the City Council rather than the fire department. "The councilors know the condition of that building," he said. "They know that it is a hollow brick building that will collapse in an earthquake."

A broad-based committee, including councilors, firemen, business leaders and the general public "is a way for people to get together," Sweet said.

Mayor Dianne Widdop asked the council for volunteers to head a committee to discuss options for a new fire station or renovations to the existing structure.

"This is not necessarily only for people who think it's a great idea," Widdop said.

'They know that it is a hollow brick building that will collapse in an earthquake.'

Gearhart City Manager
Chad Sweet

"We would like some people who think it's the worst thing they've ever heard, and want to go through it with us. Give us that opinion too. That's fine."

Topics to be considered include size, location and design, she said.

Councilors Sue Lorain and John Duncan volunteered to be "equal co-chairs" of the

committee to study the possibility of a new fire station.

The Gearhart Fire District covers 28 miles, ranging from Cullaby Lake in the North, extending to Gearhart City limits to the south. From milepost 8.5 on Lewis & Clark Road to the east and to the Pacific Ocean on the west.

The department has five trucks, which are stored at 698 Pacific Way in Gearhart and the Hertig substation Highway 101 West Lake in Warrenton.

"We're interested in having anybody who would vote pro, con or somewhere in the middle, getting involved in this so they can learn about this situation and offer their input," Sweet said.

Gearhart names Taggart to planning commission

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Russ Taggart is Gearhart's newest Planning Commission member. The retired builder was interviewed by city councilors at their Wednesday, July 1 meeting.

A 25-year resident and 34-year home builder in the region, he told councilors he liked the small-town nature of the community. "The residential versus commercial is the right balance, and that's where I'd like to see it stay."

During the interview process, Taggart said he liked "the basic gist" of the comprehensive plan.

He said the commercial

district on the highway was appropriate. "I don't see it's changing from what it's been,"

He said he saw the planning commission as "supportive" of the council, and agreed to serve on a committee to write the city's master plan, if asked to do so.

"I retired in January, so I feel like I've got some time to give to the little town that I haven't given in so many years," Taggart said. "That's sort of a synopsis where I'm coming from."

Councilors Sue Lorain, Daniel Jesse, Kerry Smith, John Duncan and Mayor Dianne Widdop unanimously voted Taggart's approval.

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