

Market: Venue connects community with makers

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Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. “We had to be really careful about how we organized the market in order to protect people.”

Many restrictions have been lifted and vaccinations are increasing in the community, enabling the organizers to do away with one-way traffic flow and mask requirements and reintroduce live music and prepared foods at the market, which opened in June and will run from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Sept. 29.

“Last year, the atmosphere was kind of like, come in, get what you need and go,” Ousley said. “We were trying to limit contact between folks. This year, it’s a bit more leisurely. There’s not that sense of urgency.”

Along with the resurgence of a more laid-back environment, the district has also seen a general uptick in attendance, according to Ousley. On opening day in 2020, about 400 people stopped by. This year, attendance was approximately 700 on opening day.

“There is kind of this atmosphere of excitement,” she added.

For the 2021 season, Market Manager Angi Wildt has curated a lineup of about three dozen vendors, representing farms, wineries, artisans and crafters. Familiar faces from Blackberry Bog Farm and A&B Farms are back selling a wide range of produce, along-



ABOVE: Patrons shop for local hand-crafted goods at the Seaside Farmers Market. BELOW LEFT: Pizzuti’s Woodfired Pizza is serving up delicious prepared food at the Seaside Farmers Market during the 2021 season. BELOW RIGHT: Having a romantic moment at the Seaside Farmers Market.



side some relatively newer vendors. Each Wednesday afternoon, patrons can grab a slice from Pizzuti’s Woodfired Pizzas and shop for artisan goods, fresh foods, baked goods and more.

Thanks to a sponsorship from T-Mobile, the mar-

ket also has a full lineup of live music for the entire summer that includes Chasing Ebenezer, Rebecca McDade, Ronnie Carrier, Old Growth and Casletown. There also is an educational booth that rotates representatives from



Photos by Katherine Lacaze

sponsored by Providence Seaside Hospital.

With the Double Up Food Bucks program, made possible through a grant, those patrons receive an additional match. For example, for \$10 of their EBT, they get to spend \$30 on fruits, vegetables and other select items at the market. All the family farmers and vendors are reimbursed, so “it’s kind of a win-win situation” in terms of supporting the local economy and helping individuals stretch their dollars, Ousley said.

In general, she feels farmers markets are valuable in providing a space for community members to connect with local farmers and artisans that they might not otherwise seek out.

“The farm comes to them,” she said. As for the farmers, purveyors and other creators, Ousley said, “it gives them a venue to share their work and have more income.”

The location at the corner of Broadway and U.S. Highway 101 is also valuable because of its proximity to the downtown corridor, the bus line and other public establishments.

When the former Broadway Middle School was put up for sale, Ousley said, there was the question of what would happen to the farmers market and if they’d have to find a new location.

When the recreation district purchased the property, she said, “that was a big relief, to know, OK, we can keep this location, and it’s a big enough parking lot that we have enough space for all the vendors.”

Chef: Jones created new lunch, happy hour and dinner menus

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exploring for local mushrooms and delicacies.

A meeting with the Mercers proved fateful.

Jones took the top chef role and Morrison became events coordinator, managing the company’s White Cap Catering and the Seaside Ballrooms at the Shilo Inn.

“We came here to open a business, but found Sadie and Andy and we’ve meshed together,” Jones said.

Jones flipped the menu at Maggie’s, creating an all-new lunch, happy hour and dinner menu. Originally from Tucson, Arizona, he brought a Latin-inspired influence to dishes like smoked salmon taquitos and chorizo sliders, alongside new takes on regional classics, like tapioca-crust halibut, spring Chinook, black



Spring Chinook, with squash puree, beets and peas, summer squash, horseradish creme fraiche, dukkah and herbs.

cod and prime Painted Hills New York steak.

Jones makes everything but the bread, he said, mak-

ing charcuterie, sauces, stocks and pasta in the kitchen. Brisket is smoked in 50-gallon cookers on the side

of the restaurant.

The restaurant is open five days a week, closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and



Prime Painted Hills New York Steak, with fingerling potatoes, mole, shishito, seasonal mushrooms, heirloom tomato, asparagus, smoked cipollini and chimichurri.

plans to be open seven days as soon as they become fully staffed.

“I’m super excited to be here,” Jones said. “I can’t say it enough. This is the coolest

town. I’m from Tucson. This is just like Tucson but on the beach. I love it. I just want to blow this place up and have a great time. Just keep the energy going.”



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