

Farmer's market moving to harbor

May 21, 2021



The Crescent City Farmers Market will be kicking off in a new location this year, as it moves from its longtime position at the fairgrounds to the Crescent City Harbor.

Angel Hanson, farmers market manager, said the move was mainly due to financial reasons, but there were other considerations also, such as the draw of the harbor.

“Everybody comes to Crescent City for the harbor. It was the best choice for us right now,” said Hanson.

The Crescent City Farmers Market is operated by the local nonprofit Rural Human Services, which also runs the county’s largest food bank and the Harrington House women’s shelter, among other projects.

When mulling the decision to move, RHS surveyed vendors to get their input. The result was mixed, with about half of vendors preferring the former location at the fairgrounds, while the other half favored the harbor.

Paul Madeira owns Ocean Air Farms with his wife Julie Jo Williams. As longtime vendors at the market, Madeira said they have seen many changes over the years, including increases in the number of vendors and the addition of prepared food. He said the move to the harbor could be good.

“I think that there’s pros and cons to this change, the pros being it’s a beautiful location. Not just a parking lot on the side of the highway. It’s representative of our community, and when we get people from out of town, I think it can click really well,” said Madeira.

Madeira said he is apprehensive about what the weather will be like so close to the ocean. Nevertheless, he said patrons and vendors will adapt.

In addition to the change of location, the market will look different this year without any Oregon vendors, who are now barred from participating due to a state rule change. Previous participants included Sweet Cron Produce from Kerby, Oregon, as well as Promiseland Farm from Sunny Valley.

Hanson said she was disappointed to let go of their Oregon vendors, but she did not want to risk fines of up to \$1,000, which RHS would be responsible for.

“It could actually close down the market, if the fines and citations are big enough,” said Hanson.

Madeira said the market will be lessened without their fellow vendors from across the border.

“It will reduce the variety at market...the more legitimate farmers you have showing up, the more valid a farmers market is,” said Madeira. “The more food that’s there, the better.”

The Farmers Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each Saturday from June 5 until October 30. Vendors will set up underneath the large solar panels in the parking lot off of Starfish Way at the harbor. Spaces are still available. Interested vendors may call RHS at (707) 464-7441 ext. 113, or pick up application forms at the RHS office, 286 M Street.

For additional information, contact Angel Hanson at (707) 951-9163 or ahanson@dnhs.org.