

Farmers Market hosts vendor meeting; Ramp Day is May 5

By Mark Novak
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Union County Farmers Market Manager Mickey Cummings and Assistant Manager

Kristy Peney have an exciting agenda of events planned for the upcoming market season.

Local vendors gathered Thursday, April 19, at the Union County Community Center to

prepare for the season opening.

“I appreciate you all being here,” said Cummings. “We’ve got a good crowd of folks here



Photo by Mark Novak

Dozens of vendors attended the annual Union County Farmers Market vendor meeting, held this year at the Union County Community Center.

to kick off the season.”

Before the Farmers Market’s official opening day of June 2, Ramp Day will be May 5 and will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cummings has a guest chef scheduled to come in for that day to prepare a special menu for this event.

“We had our Beekeeping Day at the Farmers Market yesterday and we had some educational classes, and I met this guy right here, Chef Tim Rosendahl,” said Cummings. “He’s from Spain, and he heard me talking with someone about ramps and he started coming



Photo by Mark Novak

Farmers Market Assistant Manager Kristy Peney explaining something important to a vendor.

up to me.”

Cummings and Rosendahl talked about ramp recipes and the conversation turned into an invitation to come out to the market and prepare some special dishes for the folks attending on Ramp Day.

“I said, ‘Would you be willing to come out to our Ramp Day and do some cooking demonstrations?’” said Cummings. “And he said, ‘Would you be willing to dig me some ramps?’ And I said I would. So, he’s coming that day.”

May is Beef Month, and the Cattlemen’s Association is planning to participate with a special event at the market on May 5 as well.

“The biggest thing is that it serves as a kickoff for the Farmers Market,” said Cummings. “People have been cooped up all winter long and they want to come out to something fun.

“So, when the Cattlemen’s Association contacted us, we thought both of those things would go together pretty well, and they have so far.”

Added Cummings: “Come out and try that, and what we’re going to do, we’ll sauté the ramps. You can eat them raw, but if you do, just be prepared for a few days of smell.”

The Cattlemen’s Association will be donating 40 pounds of locally raised beef and will be preparing it along with the ramps for all the patrons of the market to sample.

New to the Farmers Market for children and adults will be a wooden wagon built by Paul Reeves to ride around the market property.

In other Farmers Market news, the Hunter England Cabin renovation has been completed.

“June the 16, we’re having a dedication for that,” said Cummings. “We’re going to use the cabin for other things. We’re going to choose one day where we pick local authors and ask them to go to the cabin for a book signing.”

The Farmers Market is located at 148 Old Smokey Rd. in Blairsville, and construction of a new market entrance at Georgia 515 is on the horizon, per Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

Agricultural Specialist Linda Brookshire from the Georgia Department of Agriculture Food Safety Division attended the meeting to assist vendors on the requirements of

having and/or obtaining a Georgia Cottage Foods License and the sale of such items.

“Cottage foods is something that the Georgia Department of Agriculture has recently just started, and that is here to help the small growers that want to provide a service to the public,” said Brookshire.

The market allows only locally grown products to be sold, and all products are from Union County and the five surrounding counties.

The Farmers Market has a wide selection of locally crafted art, all-natural soap products, eggs, locally grown produce and meat products, and much, much more.

Union/Towns TEA Party

The Union/Towns TEA Party will meet Tuesday evening, April 24th at 7 p.m. in the Community Room, upstairs at the Butternut Creek Golf Course. Ron Hooper and Mike Scupin will speak about the Georgia Republican Assembly. The values upheld by the Assembly are: a strong national defense, right to life, free market capitalism, securing our borders, lower taxes, balanced budget, smaller government. Education reforms, traditional marriage, Second Amendment rights, and religious freedom!

Social hour begins at 6:30. Dr. Broun, our former Congressman, from the 10th District, will also be in attendance. Matt Gurtler, Georgia House of Representatives, District 8 will also be speaking.

SMART Recovery program

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For more information call 706-994-3692; 76 Hunt Martin Street, Blairsville, GA.

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each of theft by deception, per UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn.

“Back in November of 2017, Osborne and Lynn entered into a lease-to-buy agreement with the owners of (a local business),” said Lt. Osborn, no relation. “Once they entered into that agreement, they took over the consigners of the business, and also took on new consigners for the business.”

The original owners have since reacquired sole ownership of the business, but nearly two dozen customers have contacted Union County investigators about property they say Osborne and Lynn never paid them for, per Lt. Osborn.

As reported in February, Osborne and Lynn were initially arrested and charged with financial identity fraud, forgery

in the third degree, and theft by deception, per Lt. Osborn.

The previous charges against them stemmed from their having deposited a counterfeit check in a Blairsville bank, after which they immediately withdrew the funds, per Lt. Osborn.

Unfortunately for the original owners of the business, who shared the account with Osborne and Lynn, the account went negative after the bank discovered the check was counterfeit and reversed the bad deposit, per Lt. Osborn.

“The victims had to come up with money out of their own personal accounts to put into that account to get it back in the black,” said Lt. Osborn at the time.