

32 vendors opening Market in the Square

BY ANDREA RONDEAU
CITIZEN STAFF

Organizers of the new and improved Market in the Square have shaken off previous controversy and are excited about their grand opening Saturday.

Bett Cox is in charge of advertising and events for the new non-profit City Square Market Society that was set up over the last couple of months to run the market, after an announcement by the Downtown Business Improvement Area Society that they would no longer be doing the day-to-day organization.

The new society, Cox said, is run by a board of directors consisting of former vendors of the Market in the Square, and some, like herself, who were previously part of the Duncan Farmers' Market, which moved last month to Sun Valley Mall.

The two markets have had a contentious past, but Cox said they are now focusing on the future.

They've gotten a tremendous amount of support so far, she said, particularly from downtown merchants who are thrilled about having such a draw on Saturdays.

City Square is an ideal location for

the market, Cox said, as it is a short hop from where the tour buses unload at the Duncan Train Station, and provides an old-world atmosphere and ambience.

There's also a good deal of local walking traffic to draw from on weekends.

While they already have 32 vendors lined up for Saturday's opening, she said, they're interested in scaling new heights of attendance this season.

"We're definitely looking to try to grow it," Cox said.

City Square itself can hold about 50 vendors, she said, but they'd like to see it expand all the way down Craig Street.

"That's the plan," she said.

Special events scheduled for the opening day, which runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., include a draw in which people have a chance to win one of about 14 gift certificates donated by downtown businesses.

There will also be music, and of course, about two dozen vendors selling everything from local produce and eggs to crafts, baking and plants.

"Come down to the Market in the Square," said Cox. "It's the place to be."

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grand opening

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